



Love Token Society

Love Letter

No. 127

February 1990

St. Valentine's Day and the Love Token

By Lloyd Entenmann

The calendar has a peculiar influence upon our daily activities. As a particular month approaches, we instinctively think of a specific occasion associated with that month. The month of February immediately reminds us of Valentine's Day, a time for love, romance and adventure. Why? No one really knows for sure. There are several legends to choose from. St. Valentine was a name given to saints and martyrs of the Christian Church. The most celebrated of these are a priest in Rome and a bishop in Umbria, England, whose festivals both fell on February 14 and both of whom died on that date. There is no known reason for the connection of these two saints to lovers, and it is taken as a matter of coincidence.

Another legend is that another St. Valentine would go around his neighborhood in the early spring and deliver food on the doorsteps of the poor. After his death, the practice was continued by his friends and became known as an expression of love.

Yet another legend relates St. Valentine's Day to the survival of the Roman festival Lupercalia which was celebrated February 15 and was also observed in England and Scotland.

Though the element of love or lovers does not exist between the first two mentioned saints, it is generally accepted today that the current observation of St. Valentine's Day relates to those two martyrs. The love token as we know it today does not directly relate

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1990 Love Stamp Issued

By Dick King

The stamp on this month's Love Letter, featuring blue face-to-face lovebirds above a deep pink heart and a decorative green garland, was issued in Romance, Ark.

The stamp features a cut-paper motif prevalent in early 20th century New England and Pennsylvania folk art.

It is being issued as a "special stamp" in sheets of 50 and, for the first time in the 10-year history of the series, in booklet form.

"LOVE" is printed across the top of the stamp in black lettering and is spaced to reach the width of the design. "USA" and "25" appear in two lines of black type beneath the first letter.

Bradbury Thompson, native Topekan and graduate of Washburn University, is art director for the issue.

The sheets are being produced on the gravure press of the U.S. Banknote Co. in red, blue, green and black. In the selvage are four single digits preceded by the letter "U," the copyright of the U.S. Postal Service and the trademark to "Use correct ZIP Code."

The booklet, which contains two sheets of 10 stamps, will be printed on the gravure press of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

There have been nine previous stamps in the Love series which began in 1973.

Reprinted from the
Topeka (Kansas) Capital-Journal

Financial Report

Balance as of November 30, 1989		\$4,534.45
Receipts		
Dues	\$330.00	
New Members	\$20.00	
Reinstatement	\$10.00	
Checking Account -- 2 months' interest	\$41.67	
Total Receipts	\$401.67	
Subtotal		\$4,936.12
Expenses		
Check #140 -- Postmaster HV Box Rental (1 year)	\$29.00	
Check #141 -- Print Love Letter #126	\$59.80	
Total Expenses	\$88.80	
Balance as of January 31, 1990		\$4,847.32

Membership Report

Membership -- November 30, 1989	245	<i>Reminder</i>
New Members	2	
Reinstated	1	Dues for 1990 are now payable. Send your
Deaths	1	\$10 check now.
Resigned	1	
Membership -- January 31, 1990	246	<i>Please Note</i>
<i>New Members</i>		
Philip Thomas Meldrum, England		I have a new mailing address for Love Token
Ernest Vertefeulle, Woodstock, CT		Society correspondence. In the future, please
<i>Reinstated</i>		address your mail:
Ralph Mancini, Guilderland, NY		Love Token Society
<i>Deceased</i>		P.O. Box 1049
Gordon Durnford, Ontario, Canada		Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
		My telephone number remains the same:
		215 947-4856

We regret to inform the members of the death of Gordon Durnford. A letter from his widow, Audry, said Gordon died suddenly at his home on Nov. 18, 1989. We extend to her our heartfelt sympathy. Gordon joined the Love Token Society Nov. 25, 1987.

Charles H. Godfrey
Secretary-Treasurer

Love Token Society Officers

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>	<u>Love Letter Editor</u>
Lloyd L. Entenmann	Judith A. Murphy	Charles H. Godfrey	Robert C. Newhouse
130 Cornell Road	P.O. Box 24056	P.O. Box 1049	3200 Ella Lane
Audubon, NJ	Winston-Salem, NC	Huntingdon Valley, PA	Manhattan, KS
08106	27114	19006	66502
609 547-2857	919 765-5335	215 947-4856	913 539-1831

St. Valentine's Day and the Love Token

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to Valentine's Day but is a beautiful expression to extend on this lover's day. The coin love token came into use in Great Britain sometime during the 16th century. At first, it was merely taking a coin out of circulation and bending it in such a way that the person receiving it could not readily spend it by mistake. Then the energetic swain with a desire to show off (?) began to crudely engrave his coin. With that, the practice really began to expand, and with the appearance of professional engravers, the modern love token became quite popular.

The use of the coin started in England as an expression of affection between a boy and a girl (man and woman) and became quite popular. As with any new fad, everyone wants to get into the act, and it was not long before the same ideas was used for other purposes. This was extensively used in England until around the middle of the 19th century when it seemed to suddenly disappear. About this time, it started in the United States but seems to have been confined to the expression of love and not to any extent into other areas as it was in Great Britain.

There is a big difference in the tokens that appeared in Great Britain from the ones that appeared in the U.S. The first is in the metal of the coins used. In Great Britain the majority of the coins that exist today are on copper pieces; in the U.S. the majority are on silver. Also, the Great Britain pieces are more often smoothed on both sides, and on many only one side is engraved, leaving the other side blank. In other words, it seems that it made no difference whether the token was made from a coin from circulation or a plain metal blank. In the U.S., many love token collectors prefer and some demand that the token be on a coin of the realm. The difference in the metal is understandable when we consider the economy at the time in the respective countries. In the 1500s and

1600s in Great Britain, the copper half-penny and penny were the most common coins in use, whereas in the 1800s in the U.S. during the Civil War, there was a shortage of cents, and silver was the common circulating coinage.

The other big difference between the love tokens in the two countries is the content of the love token. In Great Britain the subject matter on the tokens took the form of a large variety of subjects: births, confirmations, christenings, engagements, weddings, death, hangings, divorces, transportation (being sent to foreign lands to serve a prison sentence), jobs or trades (showing a shoemaker, blacksmith, hunter, farmer, tradesman, religion, etc.). In the U.S. the practice seems to have confined itself primarily to an expression of affection between persons.

To some extent, two late innovations crept into the love token. One was the practice of cut-out, which is to say that the coin was mutilated to the extent that part of the metal was cut away, leaving a void space. Sometimes the bust on the coin was left on but the field around it was taken out. In some cases, a completely different object was cut out, such as a heart shape cut-out, destroying the original design in the coin, leaving an open space in the shape of a heart. A few examples of this type can be found in both countries. The other innovation is that of enameled coins. In this case, the coin is engraved and certain parts are then enameled to make that part really stand out. Usually the colors blue, black and red were most common. It then seems that the blue was used on a true love token and black for a token denoting a death.

There is very little written on the origin and development of the coin love token as such. Many articles have appeared in recent years on the subject but nearly all refer to specific tokens and often are accompanied by

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St. Valentine's Day and the Love Token

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a picture of the token. Practically nothing else can be found in the U.S. and little more in Britain.

Over a year ago, a project was begun to research this subject in the U.S. and Great Britain. A great deal of original material was uncovered and undoubtedly more still exists. The information found is being assembled and put into book form for publication. It is anticipated the book will be ready to go to print about the end of 1990. It is anticipated the book will be released through the Love Token Society and made available through wholesale book outlets. The book will be well illustrated with love tokens in existence in Great Britain and the U.S. along with the early history of the origin and development of the love token. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has an usual love token or a love token for which the story behind it is known. Love tokens with the stories that goes with them are extremely interesting as there are so few such pieces.

Club Activities

Love Token Society President Lloyd L. Entenmann recently spent five weeks in England and Wales researching the origin and development of love tokens. It seems that love tokens became popular in the 17th and 18th centuries when the farthing, half-penny and penny -- the coins most frequently used for love tokens -- circulated freely. In the United States, love tokens did not appear until just prior to the Civil War and thereafter when the silver dime was the most popular circulating piece. An interesting difference between England and the United States is that the information engraved on English love tokens is far more extensive than the usual initials, names and images on U.S. tokens. Entenmann hopes to publish a book on his findings in the near future.

Reprinted from The Numismatist, Dec. 1989

Thatcher Receives Love Tokens

Lloyd L. Entenmann, president of the Love Token Society, reports that he has received official acknowledgement from the office of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for a love token he left for her during a recent visit to London.

Entenmann traveled to England in August to continue research for his book on love tokens and had hoped to gain a personal appointment with Thatcher.

Unable to secure an appointment, Entenmann left two love tokens for Thatcher -- one with his name and the other in the name of F.W. Knecht III of Grove City, Pa., whose firm handled the engraving.

Given to Thatcher were a 1925 English threepence bearing the initials "MHT" and a 1925 Peace dollar also carrying Thatcher's initials. Thatcher was born in 1925.

Signed by John Whittingdale, political secretary, the acknowledgment reads in part: "The Prime Minister was very sorry that she was not able to receive your charming gift personally but I am sure you will appreciate that the pressures of her diary are very great. Nevertheless, she was most grateful for your kind thought and has asked me to pass on her very best wishes for the success of your book."

Entenmann said his visit to Great Britain provided substantial information for his book, which is still in the preliminary stages.

*Reprinted from
Numismatic News, Dec. 12, 1989*



President's Message

The FUN show held this year in Tampa, Florida, is now history. As usual, it was an excellent show and well attended. The weather was hot -- 85° in the daytime and the humidity never under 90 percent day or night. There seemed to be more dealers with love tokens, but their prices in most cases were high. Of course, there was nothing that particularly appealed to me, just the usual initials and scenes, few names. I saw several one dollar silver love tokens, but the prices were \$75 to \$125.

The ANA Mid-Winter show will be in San Diego, California, March 2-4. I will be there for the entire show and will be staying in the Town & Country Hotel. If you'll be there, please arrange to meet with me. During show time, you can have me paged on the floor.

Progress on the book has slowed as I have a problem with the pictures I have. They are all types and sizes, and to cut down on printing costs I have to find out what the publisher's requirements are. So, I have stopped writing and am seeking a publisher. At the moment, I have one possible prospect in Florida and am waiting to hear further from him. I am working on Chapter 3, which is an interim chapter before embarking on the Great Britain early love tokens. I have tried to sort out my pictures from England into categories and so far have 25 categories. The English are far more imaginative than we are here in America. The one thing that is striking is the number of tokens that are engraved with sayings and phrases. These we seldom see in America. The English are also much more sentimental.

There are two subjects I want to call to every member's attention. One is dues. Dues are payable in January of each year for the current calendar year. Less than half of the membership has paid, and many have not paid for 1989 yet. This latter group will be suspended and removed from the mailing list for the June issue. We cannot grow if we keep losing members. Please make sure you

have a 1990 membership card. If not, send your check to the secretary today so you don't forget again and still retain your membership.

The other subject is relative to exhibits. Several members who said they would exhibit at Pittsburgh didn't show up. One member did come through, and the exhibit I had made up to be non-competitive I changed to be competitive to try and keep our standing with ANA. Putting an exhibit together can be a lot of fun and rewarding. Remember, the society funds first, second and third award plaques at the ANA annual convention which this year will be in Seattle, Washington. If there are only three exhibits, then all will receive an award. Please think about it and join in the fun. If you want further help or information, please contact me. I'll give you all the help I can. You will have little competition and are almost certain to get a plaque.

Sincerely,



An Antique Affair: Saying It with Love Tokens

By The Canadian Press

Edith Gilcash's coin collection isn't just another nickel-and-dime display.

Her specialty in antique coins is love tokens – mementoes of a time when men didn't just say it with flowers, they said it with coins engraved with a message to a sweetheart.

"Giving a love token to your best girl showed a young man's serious intentions," said Gilcash, who became interested in the coins because of a \$5 gold piece given to her grandmother in 1910.

That piece engraved with her grandmother's initials and the dozens of other inscribed coins in her collection are the kind usually considered valueless by most collectors, said Gilcash.

"In England, engraved coins are keepsakes...originally (done) by sailors and prisoners to while away the time. Some had verses on them. Others had scenes and initials in fancy script."

Gilcash, a Moncton (New Brunswick) school teacher, likes to prowl through antique stores, flea markets and coin shops in search of additions to her collection. Aside from any monetary value, the coins have a colorful history, too.

In both England and America, engravers would set up shop at country fairs and men often took coins from their pockets to have them inscribed for their sweethearts.

Gilcash said engravers would grind off the reverse side of the coin, buff and polish the surface and then lay out a design with a small prick punch.

Then the artist, using an eye piece for magnification, would cut the pattern into the metal with graving tools.

The opposite side continued to show the sovereign's head and often the date. One token in her collection shows the British lion over a crown.

"Love tokens became very popular

throughout the Victorian era and you will see the young Queen Victoria and then the aging queen on all the British tokens."

One of her favorite coins is an American dime engraved late in the 1860s following the Civil War. Two soldiers are depicted, one missing a leg, the other bent over with a cane.

"It is poorly engraved and was obviously done by soldiers in the trenches. Collectors call this type of work trench art," said Gilcash.

Delving into the history of the coins, Gilcash has discovered that love tokens date back hundreds of years.

"I learned that England's King Henry VIII collected them during the 1500s and that the period marked the first mention of initials on tokens," said Gilcash.

The oldest coin in her collection is a large penny from Britain dated 1797, too blackened from age to reveal the message it once carried.

Reprinted from a Victoria,
British Columbia, newspaper



Token was a Special Gift for a Special Friend

By Ginger Rapsus

During the summer of 1984, I learned that a special friend was getting married. I was surprised, as he reiterated several times that he wasn't sure he wanted to get married, and also a mite disappointed, as I hoped we could someday be more than friends.

Being friends with this man brought a lot of good things into my life, and even though our relationship wasn't quite what I wanted it to be, I decided to give him some kind of gift to show my appreciation.

But what could I give him? He was successful in his career and had recently been given a promotion with a big raise. I thought about this until I went on my annual Christmas shopping spree in downtown Chicago.

A stop at my favorite coin shop was always first on the agenda. While browsing through a display case that held early half dollars and Barber quarters, I spotted a small selection of love tokens.

Love tokens were popular about 100 years ago, when one side of a coin was smoothed out and initials, scenes or sentiments were engraved on that side. Many were used for jewelry, on pins or in bracelets. The token I noticed was an 1853 dime with arrows at the date with the reverse engraved with initials -- the initials of my friend. The token only cost a few dollars, so I bought it.

I did not see my friend again until the following spring when I finally gave him the token. I explained to him what it was and why I was giving it to him. He seemed impressed with his present and later told me that my gift was indeed special.

The love token engraved over 125 years ago for a dear friend became a special gift, once again, for another dear friend. That certainly makes this little engraved dime a meaningful and favorite coin.

Reprinted from *Coins*, Jan. 1990

Love Letters

By Karen K. Marshall,
Food Editor,
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

2 cups shredded cooked chicken
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies,
drained
4 large green onions, finely chopped
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
dash each garlic powder and onion powder
dash salt
1 package (16 ounces) wonton wrappers
vegetable oil for frying

Combine chicken, chilies, green onions, cheese, garlic and onion powders, and salt in medium-size bowl; mix well.

Place a wrapper on counter with one corner facing toward you. Put about 1 teaspoon chicken mixture slightly below center of wrapper and fold bottom up. Fold sides in, points overlapping. Wet edges to seal. Fold final corner down, to resemble an envelope. Wet edges slightly to seal. Repeat with remaining chicken and wrappers.

Deep-fry, a few at a time, until golden and crispy around edges. Drain on paper towels; serve hot.

Note: Love Letters are good plain, but they are also good served with sour cream and/or sweet-sour sauce.

These freeze beautifully. To prevent sticking, spread uncooked wontons on cookie sheets and set in freezer just until hard. Do not thaw before frying. If desired, they can be fried several hours before guests arrive; simply reheat in a 400°F oven 5-10 minutes.

Reprinted from *Food Editors' Favorites:
Treasured Recipes*



My Story

By Jane Finnell

I'm a Love Token brave and bold.
Here's the story I will unfold.
When I was made by a loving hand,
And traveled by horse over barren land.

She was thrilled and happy, too,
When she received me in a box of blue.
Her love for me did not last they say
Before you knew it, I was an outcast.

In a deep dark drawer I was fondly placed,
Lived there for years in utter disgrace,
A corsage of roses, a coin by my side,
The flowers soon wilted and they too died.

A hair ribbon of a heavenly hue
Was also placed in this drawer of doom.
Seemed as the years slowly drifted by,
Additions were added to the drawer in this room.

Then carried away to the attic was I,
Seemed like I too was doomed to die.
Then one day in the attic came shouts of glee
Came the grandmother's children to seek and see.

Oh, Grandmother, may I have this just for me?
Then Grandmother sat down with a tear in her eye,
Looked at me with loving care and a sigh,
Oh, yes, my dear, it meant much to me.

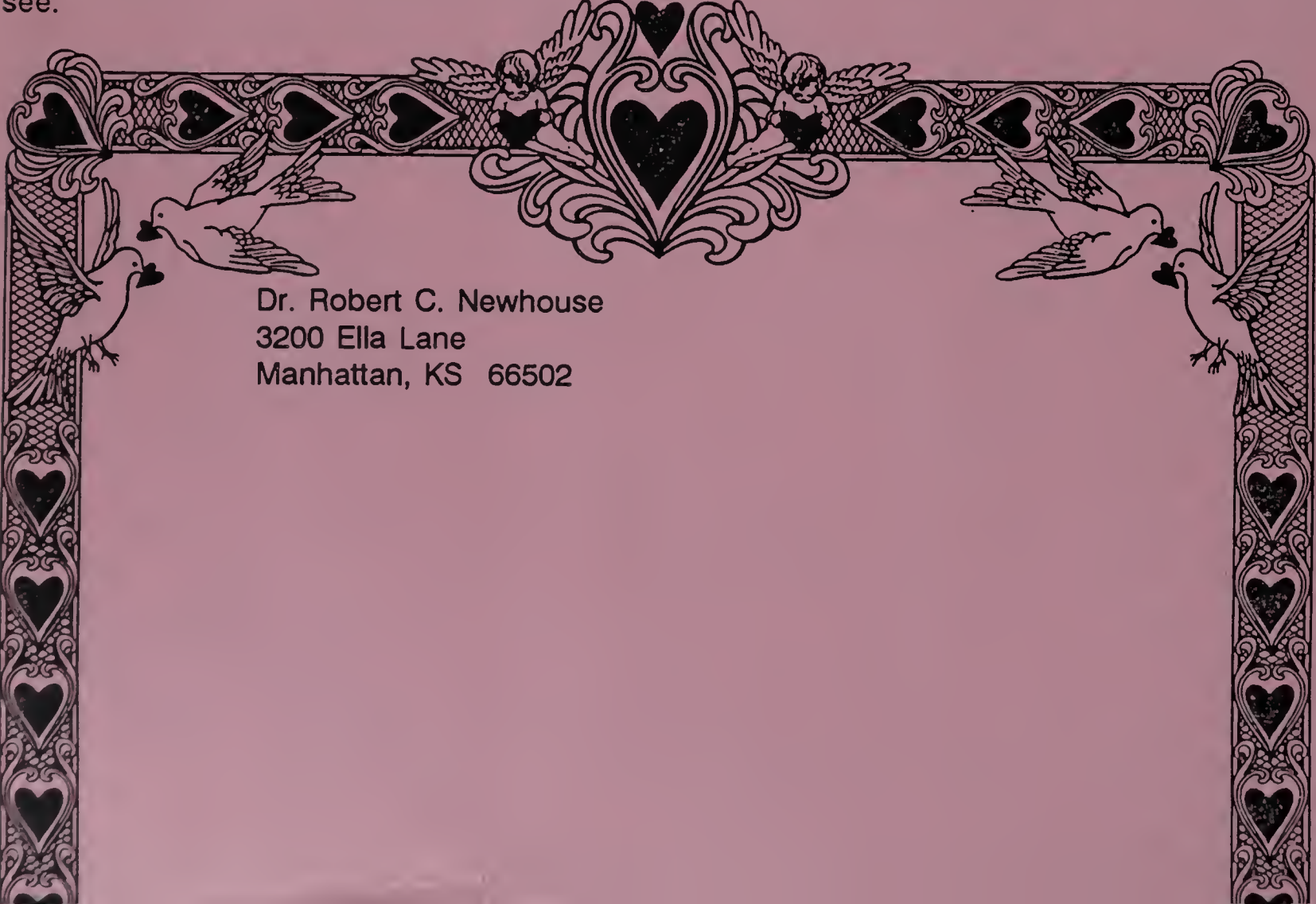
It belonged to me when I was a girl
Young, beautiful, with long blond curls.
He said I was his true love and should wait
But, he went away to war, you see,

There is a little white cross on a hill o'er the sea
I longed for him for many a year.
This little token meant much to me.
Over it, I wept many a tear.

Then came your grandfather to woo me.
I became his wife, was proud to be,
Well, goodness sakes, I've come alive
And out of that drawer with a happy sigh.

At the coin convention,
you'll find ones like me.
There are lots of them that you might buy
And give to your loved one, so why not try?

Lovingly,
A Love Token



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
3200 Ella Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502



Love Token Society

Love Letter

No. 128

April 1990

President's Message

In my opinion, the ANA Midwinter Convention in San Diego was a very good show. I found a number of dealers with love tokens and actually purchased about 30. I also wound up having an argument with two dealers over their pricing. There are still a number of dealers who think that when a love token is on an expensive coin, the price is equal to or greater than the numismatic value of that coin. They refuse to admit that once a numismatic coin is damaged in any way it loses its numismatic value and reverts to its bullion value. In Tampa I saw a love token at one dealer's booth that was on an 1885 V nickel, and he wanted \$135 for it. In San Diego I saw two different dealers with an 1885 V nickel love token: one was asking \$300 and the other had his marked down from \$540 to \$450. If you pay these kind of prices, you are hurting the love token collectors and yourself as well as condoning such dealer practice. In the United States, most available love tokens are on a dime, and the prices range from \$4 to about \$10 depending on the condition of the coin and the appeal of the engraving. If a dealer has a love token with the initials you desperately want, you may pay a lot more than the average, but don't let yourself get suckered into an exorbitant figure. An honest dealer knows a damaged coin is not a collectible coin, especially if one side has been obliterated, and will price his pieces accordingly. This is especially true with gold or rare date or mint coins. Don't support the greedy dealer.

As a result of an exceptional news response over Valentine Day publicity, we

have obtained 12 new members. I sent out releases to three national and two local publications and had an unsolicited article in the *New York Times*. One of our members is now working on an article for future publication in a national magazine. We need to increase our membership, and we can do it if we constantly keep talking or writing about it.

I have had several comments from members about our financial position. We were struggling for funds when I first took office, and now we have a comfortable balance. Raising the dues did help, but that is not as responsible for the balance as several other factors. We have increased our income as the result of selling love tokens through the Society in two auctions and through the Love Letter. We have had two small collections donated to the Society which we sold. A great deal of our current operating expenses are being donated, but I do not know how long that will continue. I have a great deal of correspondence, and so far I have not charged the Society for supplies, postage or cost of duplicating material. Our new editor is getting our Love Letter copied at a nominal cost. These are all big expense items which we formerly paid for. All this may soon come to an end, but let us reap the benefit while it lasts. I also have an idea which I will announce before or at our annual meeting in Seattle which will utilize about half of our balance.

The book is progressing slowly. The first six chapters are now written in the first draft. About a quarter of the book will be in pictures. However, the book is consuming so much time, my regular correspondence is

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Financial Report

Balance as of January 31, 1990		
Receipts		\$4,847.32
Dues		
New Members	\$1,160.00	
Reinstatement	170.00	
Donations	10.00	
Checking Account -- 2 months' interest	30.00	
	44.34	
Total Receipts		\$1,414.34
Sub-total		\$6,261.66
Expenses		
Check #142 Postmaster HV Postage	27.40	
Check #143 Postmaster Langhorne Envelopes	136.00	
Check #144 LL #127	119.65	
Check #145 Postmaster HV Postage	14.30	
Check #146 ANA Annual Convention Booth	85.00	
Check #147 ANA 99th Anniversary Patron	10.00	
Check #148 A. Durnford, refund 1990 dues	10.00	
Total Expenses		402.35
Balance as of March 30, 1990		\$5,859.31

Membership Report

Membership -- January 31, 1990	246
New Members	17
Reinstated	1
Sub-total	264
Deaths	2
Resigned	6
Membership -- March 31, 1990	256

Reinstated

Linda Duff, Paducah, KY

New Members

John Cundy, Portsmouth, NH
Peggy Rice, Katonah, NY
L. George Van Syckle, Sussex, NJ
Joseph Gleason, Bronx, NY
Marilyn Van Allen, Sidney, OH
Sharon Kyzivat, LaGrange Park, IL
Ralph E. Lawnick, St. Joseph, MO
Susan I. White, Bowie, MD
Dr. Jay S. Goldberg, Colonial Heights, VA
Al Lanzetta, Brooklyn, NY
Craig L. Nodine, Irmo, SC
Lloyd Lindemer, Spring Valley, CA
Frank E. Brazzell, Terre Haute, IN
Carol J. Hutton, LaGrange, IL

William Hays, Huntingdon Valley, PA
Roxanne Blanchard, Brooklyn, NY
Wendy Reynolds, Santa Maria, CA

Deceased

An unsigned postcard was received informing me of the death of William Henderson of Colorado Springs, CO, on June 5, 1989. The second notice was the death of Celia Hays of Philadelphia, PA, on November 4, 1989. Her husband William Hays informed me Celia's collection consisted of 250 love tokens and he wants to continue her membership. I assigned Celia's number to William.

Reminder

If you are one of the members who has not paid dues for 1990, please send your check by return mail. Otherwise, this may be the last Love Letter sent to you. Thank you.

Send your check to:

Love Token Society
P.O. Box 1049
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Charles H. Godfrey
Secretary-Treasurer

President's Message

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falling behind, and I would like to get someone to help in this area. Our current vice president does not want to run again in August, and I would like one of our members to volunteer for this position. Please contact me as soon as you can. Time is getting short.

It has been one of my aims to try and hold regional meetings of members at local coin shows. We have had these in Orlando and Toronto, and I am planning one now at the MANA show in Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 19-21. If you can attend that show, please arrange to attend the Love Token Society meeting. More later when arrangements are confirmed.

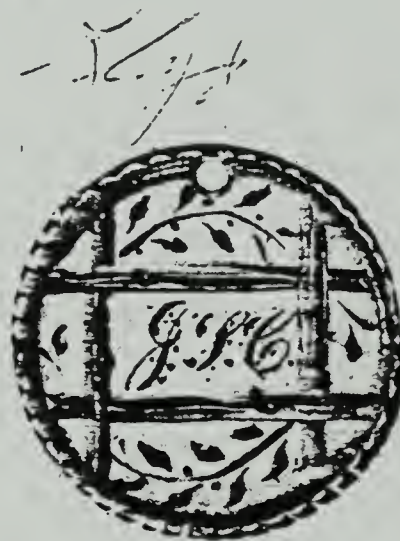
In the process of writing my book, there is one thing that is really frustrating to me. In describing so many wonderful love tokens, I don't have the story that could go with them. I have found in speaking with some collectors that they have researched or have the story behind a love token then do not write it down and keep it with the token. It makes the token so much more interesting and will add to its value. The story should be kept with the token for all future owners. A case in point - I just purchased a five-piece jewelry set, and the seller only had a partial story behind it. I want to use it in my book, but I want to have the correct story. It is a beautiful set consisting of a half-dollar pin, a set of earrings and a set of cufflinks all on dimes. It is a matched set as all five pieces are smoothed on one side and engraved with a full field design over which is laid a cut-out gold Gothic letter T. All I know about this set

is that it was made by or for the Tulane family that founded Tulane University in New Orleans. I want to confirm this story and get more on it. I have written two letters to the University and have had no reply. Through this letter, I hope I can find an alumnus from that University who can help in some way.

In this Love Letter, there are 100 love tokens available. I have been in touch with the owner and have gotten him to reduce some of his asking prices. If there are any you may want but are not satisfied with the price, please contact me and I will see if we can get a concession. He has more for when this lot is sold.

For now, have a happy and joyous spring, stay healthy, keep in touch and good love token hunting.

Sincerely



Token Wanted

Mary Ellen Cheverud is searching for a love token for her daughter. She is looking for the name Kathleen or the initials K, K E or K C. If you have any of these love tokens, please contact Mary Allen at 2353 Clyde Terrace, Homewood, IL 60430.

Love Token Society Officers

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary/Treasurer</u>	<u>Love Letter Editor</u>
Lloyd L. Entenmann 130 Cornell Road Audubon, NJ 08106 609 547-2857	Judith A. Murphy P.O. Box 24056 Winston-Salem, NC 27114 919 765-5335	Charles H. Godfrey P.O. Box 1049 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 215 947-4856	Robert C. Newhouse 3200 Ella Lane Manhattan, KS 66502 913 539-1831

Life Membership Proposal

To satisfy the many requests and questions the secretary has been receiving concerning a life membership, the members are directed to Article VIII of the constitution and by-laws which reads:

Section 1: Proposed changes, deletions or additions to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Secretary. Such proposal shall then be mailed to all members and acted upon by the membership at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called only for that purpose by the President.

Complying with these by-laws and to satisfy the requests of the members, your secretary therefore submits the following resolution for your consideration and action at our annual meeting at the ANA convention in August 1990.

Therefore be it resolved that the Love Token Society have a Life Membership classification. To set up this membership classification, the following changes must be made to the By-Laws.

AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

1. Article III: Membership

Add Section 7 to read: Life membership in the Love Token Society may be obtained by any member in good standing upon payment of a Life Membership fee and approval by the Executive Board. A member granted Life Membership by the Executive Board shall thereafter be exempt from dues.

2. Article IV: Dues and Fees

Add Section 3 to read:

(a) The fee for Life Membership shall be the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) plus the current year's dues. Life Membership status will become effective January 1 of the subsequent year.

(b) A separate account shall be established by the Secretary-Treasurer for

such Life Membership funds. Monies received for each Life Membership shall immediately be deposited in this account. The principal of this Life Membership fund cannot be decreased to an amount lower than the original Life Membership investment. The Life Membership fund is to remain in perpetuity. One year after the establishment of this fund and annually thereafter, the dues of the life member will be transferred to the general fund account.

(c) If the Executive Board confers an Honorary membership, an amount equal to the Life Membership fee in effect at that time is to be withdrawn from the general funds and placed in the Life Membership account.

(d) The Life Membership fee amount can be changed and this article amended at a future meeting of the Love Token Society in accordance with Article VIII.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles H. Godfrey



Love Tokens: Engraving Techniques and Price Valuation Factors

By Anthony Vigliotta

Love tokens are a unique category of exnumia (collecting of tokens and medals) in that love tokens are basically conversions of coins of the realm into conversational pieces of exchange to express love or affection between the giver and receiver. As previously defined in my *FUN-Topics* article, "The Centimental Token," (Volume XXXIV No. 1, Spring 1989), a love token normally consists of a coin planed on one side (usually the reverse) and then engraved with a loved one's initial, name or appropriate message or scene. In that article the history and tradition of love tokens are traced from their origination to their widespread use in this country during the 19th century.

However, like all collectibles, be it a numismatic or exnumia item, the discussion will always get around to the basic question of "What is it worth?" Luckily for the low budget collector, the avocation of love token collecting is not the jungle of complexity one presently associates with the mint state (MS) syndrome that exists in numismatics.

Fundamentally, a love token has to be classified as an engraver's piece of art much like a painting is the product of its artist. Therefore, like a painting, the beauty, and hence the value, is in the eye of the beholder and the value will vary accordingly.

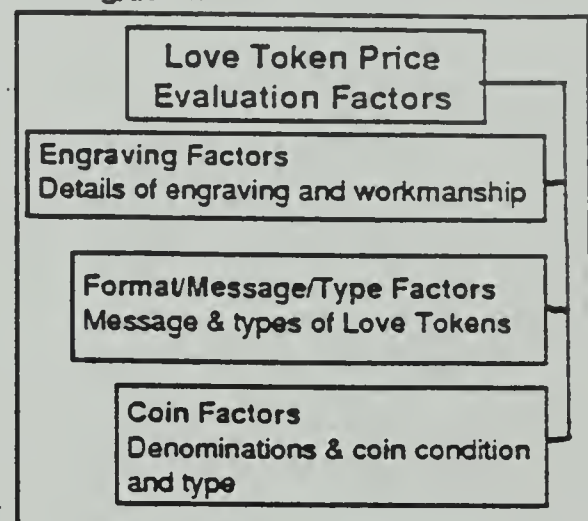
Besides the aesthetic characteristics of the love token, there are certain inalienable factors that will determine the price or value of the love token in the collectibles marketplace.

Once again, I must emphasize the love token is a readily available and affordable collectible even to the low budget hobbyist. Only in rare cases will the price of love tokens exceed three figures, with the majority at prices less than \$25.

Having established the basic affordability of love tokens, the remainder of this article will try to establish some reasonable guidelines and criteria that fundamentally

determine the net worth of the love token in today's volatile collector's marketplace.

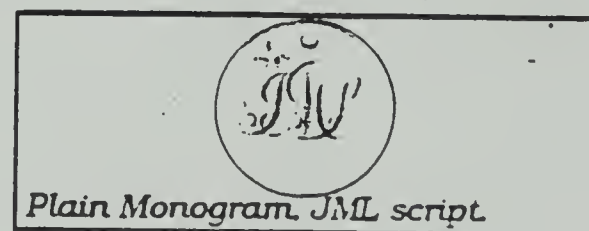
There are three major factors that determine the value or market price of a love token, as indicated in the figure below.



Engraving Factors

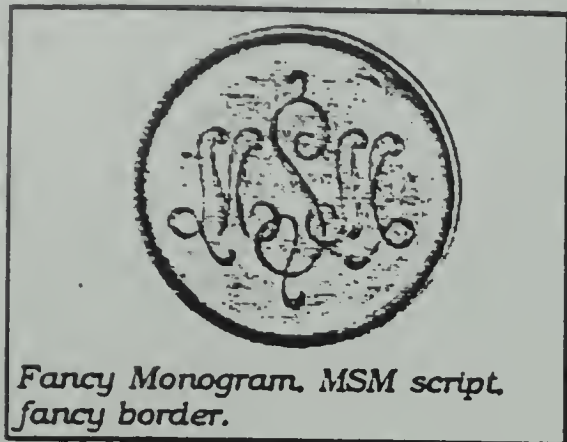
The most important factor relating to both the aesthetic appeal and market value of a love token is the apparent talent and ability of the engraver. Up until recently, little had been written trying to classify and quantify the quality of the engraver's art. The only known publication on love tokens is *The Standard Guide to Love Tokens* by Sol Taylor (printed by Toni's Print Shop, 917 West Olive, Burbank, CA 91501). In this reference, the author identified three levels of the basic engraving techniques with representative examples provided as indicated below.

Plain or simplistic engraving with a single figure or monogram with minimal background or border decoration detail.

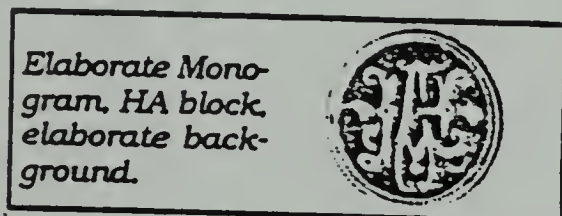


continued on page 6

Fancy – Simple figure or monogram with additional detail provided either to lettering, background, or border.

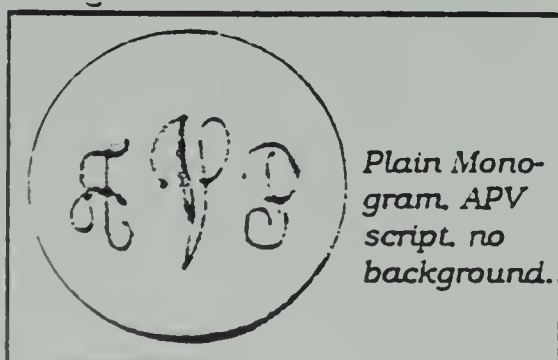


Elaborate – Single or multiple figures or monograms deeply set or overlaid with engraved border and work done well to the lettering and field.

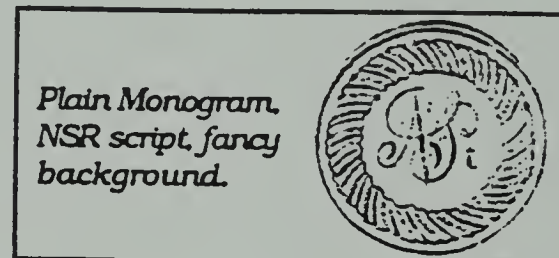


In the process of developing an art piece, the engraver has limited area (i.e. the coin surface) in which to demonstrate his skill. The prime objective, of course, is the monogram (initials) or message to be conveyed by the love token. In addition, the engraver has the remaining field or background surface of the coin and the border or rim of the coin in which to enhance his design. The four possible combinations of monogram/message and background in love token design are as follows with representative examples of each of the four types.

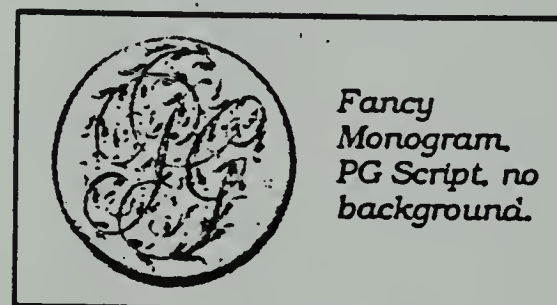
Plain Monogram/Plain Background – Simple monogram in message and minimal or no design in background or border.



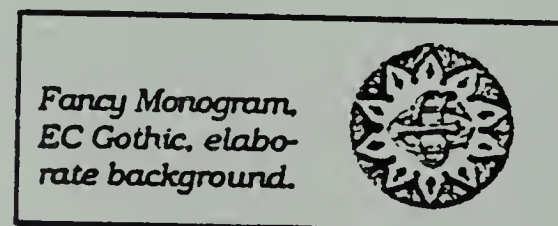
Plain Monogram/Fancy or Elaborate Background – Once again, the monogram or message has a simple design but the background/border may be either fancy or elaborate in engraving details.



Fancy/Elaborate Monogram/Plain Background – The monogram or message may have great details but the remainder of the coin is quite simple or without detail.



Fancy/Elaborate Monogram/Fancy/Elaborate Background – When both have detail and elegance, you truly have a work of art on a coin.



The details relating to how the above factors and characteristics affect value and market price of the love tokens will be summarized in the last section of this article.

Format

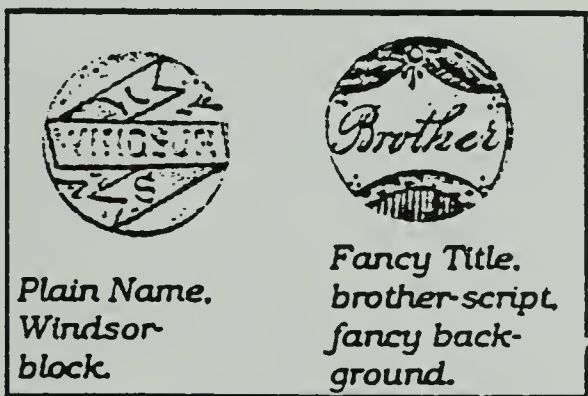
The next factors affecting the basic or intrinsic value of the love token relates to the monogram, message, or the prime purpose and interest of the token. Although there are numerous types of so-called love tokens, many are not love tokens in the true sense of the word, as they are not messages of love or affection. It has somehow been assumed that any coin of the realm which has a

continued on page 7

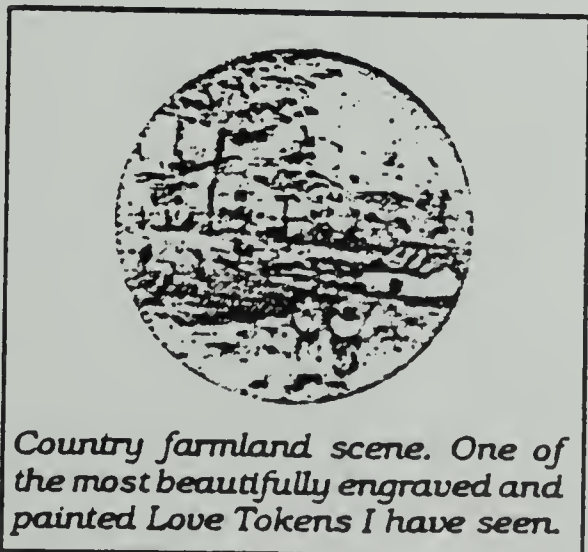
message or subject content inscribed on it fits under the broad umbrella of the love token classification. Some examples and types of *real* love tokens are: monograms (initials); names or titles: scenics. Mourning pins, obituary tokens and special event tokens are broadly classified as love tokens but are more accurately termed *quasi* love tokens.

Monograms/Initial Type – The original and most prevalent love tokens are those on which the initials of the recipient were engraved. It is estimated that 80-85 percent of all love tokens are the monogram type. Of these, it is safe to assume that 70-75 percent were engraved on dimes.

Names or Titles – In lieu of the normal monogram, donors may have desired to be more specific as to the recipient and so placed their names or title (mother, father, etc.) on the love token.



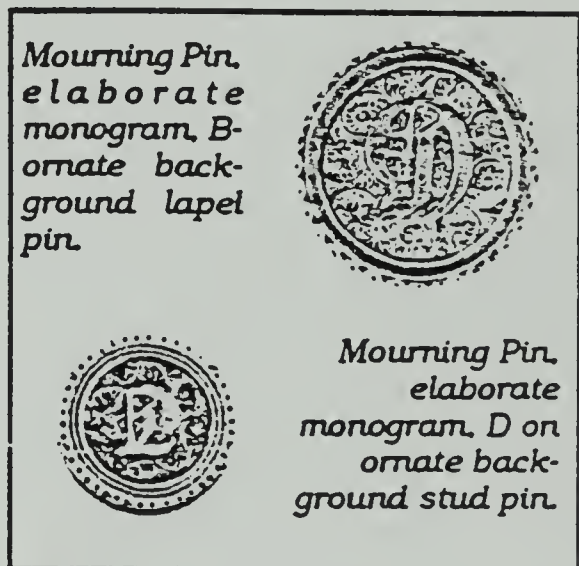
Scenics – Perhaps the most ornate and artistic of all love tokens are those classified as scenics. Here, special scenes or objects significant to the recipient are portrayed. Some scenics are so ornate that they are truly the equivalent of still life on coin surfaces.



The above three types are classified as the *true* love tokens. In addition to the simple coin type tokens, love tokens come in many variations and forms. Often tokens were holed and joined to make bracelets. In other cases, pins were soldered on the unengraved sides and they were used as lapel pins. Another favorite form was made by having a small ring soldered on the top side and using the tokens as necklaces. Other variations include tie pins, money clips, and many other means of mounting and display.

The *quasi* type love tokens show three basic types, although there are additional variations of engraved coins.

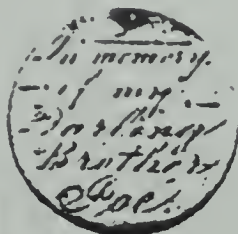
Mourning Pins – A rather unique application of the engraved token was the mourning pin. These were lapel pins on which the initial of the deceased was worn by the bereaved. These mourning pins were elaborate art pieces and the initial or monogram was normally made of black enamel.



Obituary Tokens – These engraved pieces recalled the death of a deceased relative or friend. The death of Queen Victoria was one of the most widely remembered, as shown by the extensive use of obituary tokens issued in remembrance of that event. Another type is a message commemorating the memory of a deceased relative.

continued on page 8

Obituary
token.
Queen Vic-
toria. plain
block print.



Obituary
token, memory
of deceased
brother, plain
script.

Special Event Tokens – This is truly a sort of catch-all category of love tokens to encompass those that do not fit into the previously listed categories. All types of activities, events, and places are lumped together under special events. To indicate the spectrum of coverage, the three special events tokens shown here are respectively: the Lord's Prayer engraved on a dime; a 100-yard award to J. Wahl on a silver planchette; and a special reunion at a place and date.

Special event,
Lord's Prayer
on a dime.



Special event,
100-yard
award to J.
Wahl.

Special event,
reunion, place
& date.



Coin Valuation Factors

The coin denomination and overall condition and grade, along with the coin type, are significant factors in the value or price of the coin in the exnumia marketplace.

Coin Denomination – The denomination of the coin is a major factor in the price of the love token. Because the majority of love

tokens are engraved on silver dimes, the price of dime love tokens is used as the baseline or standard for comparing relative values. Due to the comparatively small quantity of minor coins (1/2 cent, 1, 2, 3 and 5 cent) produced as love tokens, the values of the minor coins almost compare equally with the dime love tokens and are approximately only 25 percent less in value. However, the price differential on major denominations such as 25 cents, 50 cents, and silver dollars and gold pieces increased appreciably over the value of the dime love token.

Coin Grade – The general overall condition of the token and the grade of the unengraved side are also factors in determining value. The reason the grade of the unengraved side affects the price is unclear to me. I believe this is a syndrome effect from collecting numismatic items where grade is perhaps the most important criteria in coin value.

Coin Type and Dates – According to Taylor's guide, the coin type significantly affects the love token's value. For example, colonial and bust type coins are priced higher than the mid and late 19th century type coins. This is based primarily on scarcity and rarity rather than the classical beauty of the token. This is another example where I believe numismatic influence has affected the price of love tokens. Personally, I collect love tokens as love tokens, not as numismatic rarities, and my price matrix is developed for the love tokens engraved on mid and late 19th century coins of the realm.

Having discussed in detail the factors affecting love token valuation, one question still remains: "How much is it worth?" For the analytical and definitive types concerned with coin type and rarity, Taylor's guide provides a most comprehensive and mathematical process for determining the net worth of a love token. For the love token collector who is primarily interested in the token as a traditional art piece that is readily available and affordable, the table on the next page should be an adequate guide for the majority

continued on page 9

of love token purchases. This table is presented based on my experience in purchasing love tokens and the simplified application of the data presented in Taylor's guide. Some basic rules in developing the price matrix are as follows:

1. All minor coins (1/2 cent through 10 cents) are basically the same in the different categories of engraving techniques. If there is a differential, it may only be 10-25 percent with value of the 10 cent piece being higher.
2. Normally, in category by category comparisons, quarter tokens are priced twice as high as dimes, half dollars 2 to 2 1/2 times higher than quarters, and silver dollars 2 to 3 times higher than half dollars.
3. Surprisingly, gold piece love tokens are valued primarily on the bullion value of the gold. For example, \$1 gold pieces, regardless of type, are normally in the \$35-\$45 range. Due to high initial cost at the time of engraving and the softness of gold, practically all gold pieces are elaborately and ornately engraved.
4. Obituary tokens were made in limited numbers and the majority are of plain design, therefore the price is primarily dependent on the denomination of coin used.
5. Special event types vary significantly depending on the event being commemorated, therefore value is normally dependent on coin denomination and engraving detail.

In addition to being an available, affordable collectible, love tokens are truly pieces of art and almost every token is unique in its engraving and characteristics.

For the joiner, love token collectors have formed the national Love Token Society. For membership information, write to Charles H. Godfrey, Sec./Treas., P.O. Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006. The Love Token Society has a dynamic leader in its president, Lloyd L. Entenmann. Mr. Entenmann has been doing extensive research on the history of love tokens and plans to publish a book on the subject in the near future. Mr. Entenmann has traced the origin of love tokens to England and plans to visit that country to continue his research. In addition, Mr. Entenmann has established the

Margaret C. Entenmann Memorial Award granted by ANA for Best Love Token exhibits at national and regional coin shows.

Reprinted from *FUN-Topics*, Spring 1990

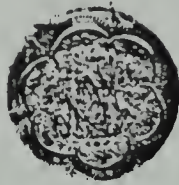
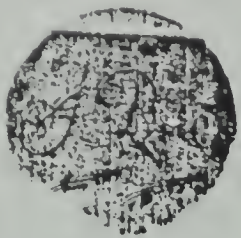
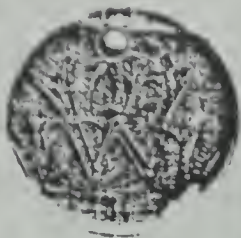
The following Price Matrix is offered as a guide.

Love Token Types	Coin Denomination				
	Dimes	Minor coins 1/2-5 cents	Quarters	Halves	Silver Dollars
<u>Monogram/Initial</u>					
Plain	4-5	2-3	7-8	20-25	40-50
Fancy	6-7	4-5	10-12	25-35	50-60
Elaborate	8-10	6-8	13-15	35-50	65-80
<u>Name/Title</u>					
Plain	6-7	5-6	12-14	25-30	40-50
Fancy	8-9	7-8	14-16	30-40	50-60
Elaborate	10-12	9-11	16-20	50-60	75-100
<u>Scenics</u>					
Plain	7-8	5-6	8-10	35-40	50-60
Fancy	9-11	7-9	10-14	50-60	60-80
Elaborate	12-15	10-12	15-20	65-80	80-125
<u>Mourning Pins</u>					
	8-10	6-8	12-14	25-30	40-50
<u>Obituary Tokens</u>					
	7-9	5-7	14-16	25-30	40-50
<u>Special Event Tokens</u>					
	5-15	5-10	17-20	25-75	40-125

All numbers are rounded off to even dollars.



LOVE TOKENS AVAILABLE



#361

①

BW

\$6.

#362

JBC

\$6.

#363

MLB

\$6.

#364

MN

\$6.

#365

PT

(Cent)

\$7.

#366

LP

(Cent) \$7.



#367

CH

\$7

#368

CMK

\$7.

#369

DC

1867

\$7.

#370

MH

\$7.

#371

MM

\$7.

#372

BHL

\$7.

#373

RU

\$7

#374

MEM

\$7.

#375

WT

\$7.

#376

HH

\$7.

#377

CG

\$7.

#378

He Hert

\$7.



#379

FF

\$7.

#380

WK

\$7.

#381

h

\$7.

#382

HEH

\$7.

#383

MAC

\$7.

#384

?

\$7.



#385

ARL

\$7

#386

EL

\$7.

#387

?

\$7.

#388

RL

\$7.

#389

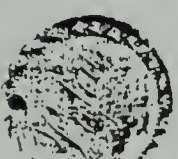
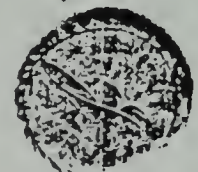
HB

\$7.

#390

LD

\$7.



#391

J

\$7.

#392

papa

\$7.

#393

AT

⑥

\$8 (stained) \$6.

#394

TG

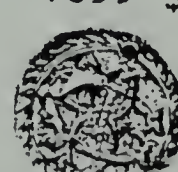
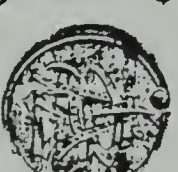
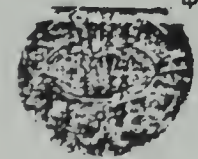
#395

h

#396

ECM

1899 \$8.



#397

CAF

\$8.

#398

JJM

\$8.

#399

RAL

\$8.

#400

ETP

\$8.

#401

GSH

\$8.

#402

ACB

\$8.



#403 DRT \$8.	#404 ⑦ Russ \$8.	#405 FG \$8.	#406 MA \$8.	#407 LG \$8.	#408 JJW \$8.
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#409 E \$8.	#410 WM \$8.	#411 FWE \$8.	#412 IFS \$8.	#413 WFJ \$8.	#414 W \$8.
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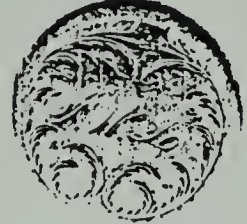

#415 JPB \$8. ⑧	#416 MH \$8.	#417 ETW \$8.	#418 AMC \$8.	#419 6 (?) \$8.	#420 FSS \$8.
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#421 IJF \$8. ⑨	#422 CEM \$8. ⑩	#423 HH \$8.	#424 Eh \$9.	#425 FJS \$9. ⑪	#426 A ma mere \$9.
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#427 Sallie \$9.	#428 ⑫ PBOE \$9.	#429 GSH \$9.	#430 DH \$9.	#431 EHM \$9.	#432 FGM \$9.
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#433 LGT \$10.	#434 ⑬ BH \$10.	#435 MG \$10.	#436 Blanchie Carl \$10.	#437 MDE \$10.	#438 ⑭ (Cent) A \$10.
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#439 hm \$10.	#440 Fah \$10.	#441 Cora \$10.	#442 MIS \$10.	#443 GF \$10.	#444 ⑮ A \$10.
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#445 Erv \$10.	#446 July 12th 1889 \$10.	#447 DB \$10.	#448 EHC \$10.	#449 M \$12.	#450 Nannie \$12.
					
#451 S \$12.	#452 (16) JSB \$12.	#453 FF \$12.	#454 Hattie's Birthday \$12.	#455 MOTHER \$12.	#456 FRG \$12.
					
#457 WMG \$12.	#458 MP \$12.	#459 JWL \$12.	#460 Design only Half-dollar \$4. very worn		

FOOTNOTES:

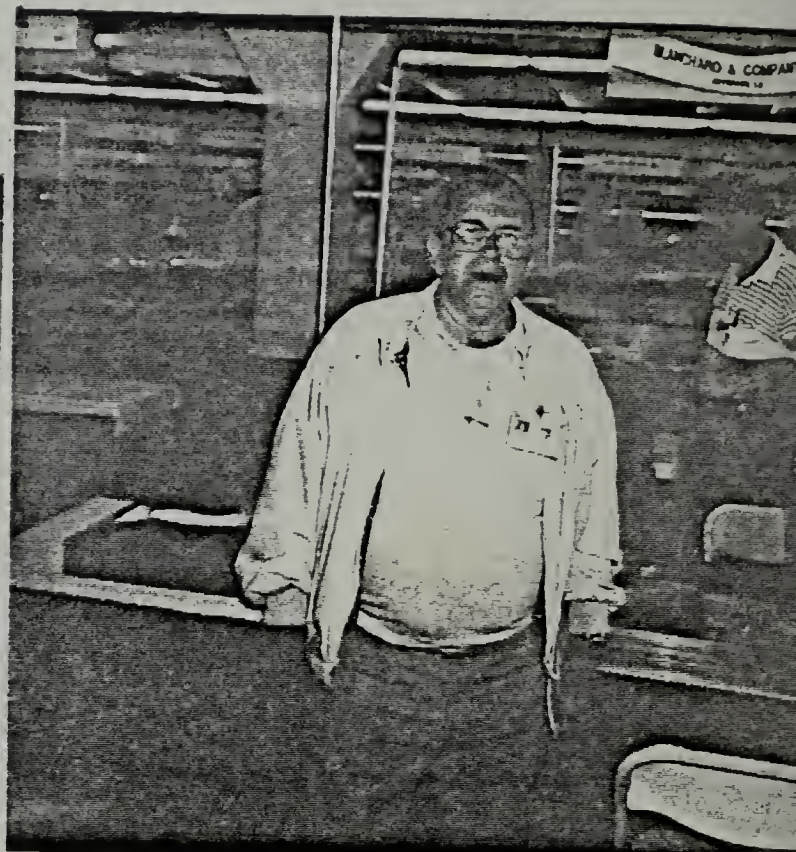
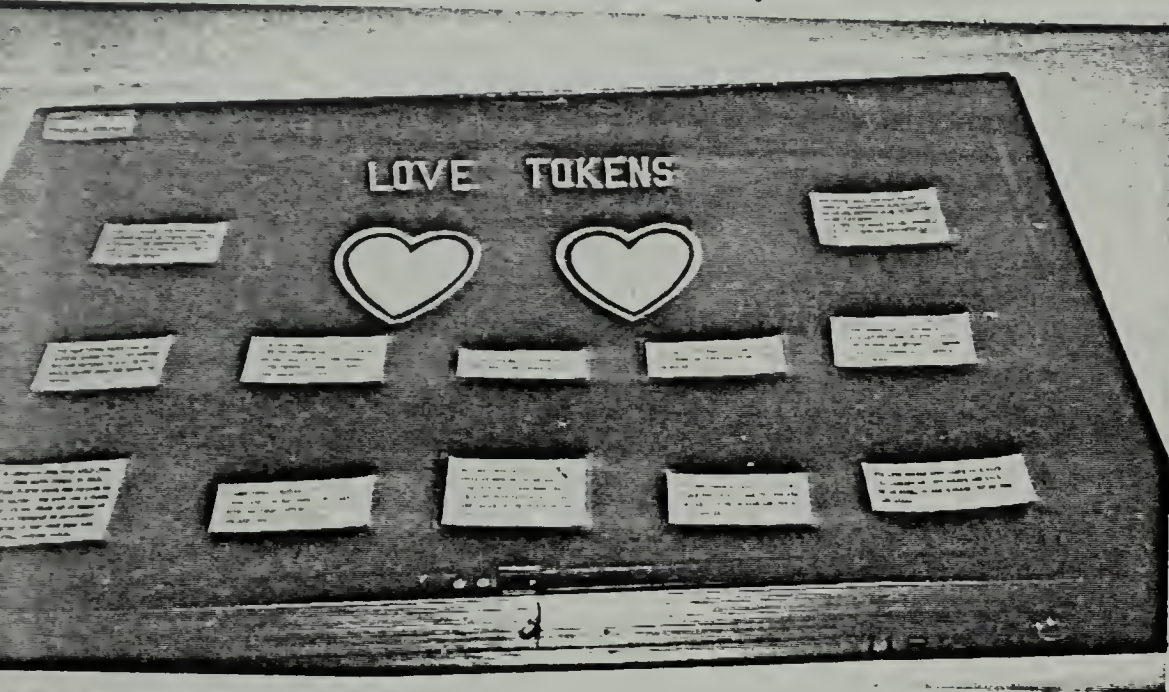
- 1 Engraved with fern like design on reverse
- 2 On France 50 centimes, 1860
- 3 On an English sixpence
- 4 On France 1 centime
- 5 On Canada five cent piece
- 6 Cufflink reverse
- 7 On France 1 franc
- 8 On a jewelry blank disc stamped "Sterling"
- 9 On Canada five cent piece
- 10 Reverse engraved with blank center for initials or name
- 11 Working pin back
- 12 Smoothed plain reverse
- 13 U. S. "V" nickel 1899
- 14 U. S. Indian cent 1890
- 15 Same as other side but with small design marks added
- 16 Smoothed reverse engraved 1891
- 17 Reverse smoothed, engraved rim design MMR in center

All other love tokens are on U.S. dimes or quarters

If you're interested in any of the above, please send check to President, Lloyd L. Entenmann, as soon as possible, including postage and insurance. Orders up to \$50.00. add \$1.25; over \$50. add \$2.25

San Diego Exhibit

At the ANA Midwinter Coin Show in March, there was one love token exhibit entered by Lloyd Lindemer of Spring Valley, California. This exhibit is eligible for the Silver Certificate Love Token Exhibit Award and a one year membership in the Society.



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
Bluemont 321, Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

Love Token Society

LOVE LETTER

No. 129



June 1990

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Love Tokens

Love Tokens are coins that have been sanded or filed flat on one side of the coin, sometimes both sides. Then they were engraved with initials, names, sayings, poems, quotations, special dates, and things that were to be remembered. Some had beautiful designs and flowers around the initials, they were masterful works of art.

Love tokens were first discovered as early as 1790. The practice of making love tokens survived through the 1800's and into the 20th Century.

They would show up in people's personal family papers, secret hiding places, personal heirlooms, vaults and at house sales.

Love tokens were also made into lapel pins, cuff links, and tie stick pins; some were drilled to be used as necklaces or bracelets. Occasionally, some had several coins linked together and used as watch fobs. Whatever came to mind is what was created.

Lots of love tokens were made by prisoners in jails around the country, just like the Hobo Nickels. The prisoners would be very bored sitting in jail thinking about their loved ones, so they made love tokens for them. Sometimes the prisoners wouldn't have files so they would rub the coins on the floor and on the walls of their cells to make them smooth. These tokens were then given to their loved ones on visiting day or sent to them.

During depressed times, some people made love tokens from pocket change because it was all they had. After engraving, the tokens became a gift that was not too expensive.

The most popular coins used were the Liberty Seated dimes and Liberty Seated half dimes. The second most popular coin was the Liberty Seated quarter, because the quarter looked more impressive to their loved ones.

The reason for using silver coins was that they were softer to engrave and to work with. Other coins were too hard, but all coins were used for love tokens.

Love tokens became popular in European countries and with soldiers serving overseas who would send them home. In England, the most popular coin used was the silver sixpence. When people carried them in their pockets or purse, they would bend them to keep from spending them. This is why love tokens in England were called "benders".

continued on page 3

President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

Spring has finally arrived (we hope) and with it comes a mass of coin shows and conventions. Also with it comes the never ending search for those special love tokens we have been looking for, for so long a time. Let us hope that the 90's will prove more productive. Half of the love tokens shown in the last Love Letter were sold as soon as the Letter was received. Strangely enough, several members wanted the same pieces. One member wanted six tokens, but when I got her letter, all six were already sold. This makes me very sad! I know how it feels to think I found a love token I want only to find I missed the boat! I felt so bad, I went through my personal collection, and I did find two tokens that were very similar to ones she wanted, so I sent them to her as substitutes. The love tokens that are still available are shown in this Love Letter. If there are any you really want, get your request in as soon as possible, or better yet, call me on the telephone. And, please make your check payable to me, not the Society. Since I am providing this service free, it is more convenient for me to handle the money through my personal check account. That way I can handle refunds, postage and insurance fees immediately without having to send everything to the Secretary, and have him send me checks back which could take a week or more.

In the last issue I requested volunteers for the office of Vice President. One member, Douglas Jennings of Petersburg, Michigan, responded and is willing to give it a try. The service I want him to perform will not be easy, but if the membership will cooperate, the Society will grow and prosper and Doug's job will be easier. Then everyone will benefit! So give him your support and assistance.

Also in the last issue, I mentioned a beautiful 5 piece matched love token set that I acquired that has a gold gothic letter "T" soldered on to the engraved silver coins, and was reported to have been made by or for the Tulane family that founded Tulane University. The University has no knowledge of such a set, and with the assistance of member Donald A. Wilkinson, who did a beautiful research job for me on this project, it appears there is no truth to the story of this set. The family tree shows no surviving male heirs in the founder's generation or thereafter. An expensive gamble that turned sour!

Progress on the book is still going slow, I now have 10 chapters in the first draft which results in 101 pages. I have finished reviewing the English love tokens that I found so interesting, and am about to begin on our American tokens. Before doing so, however, I am going to discuss the differences between the tokens in these countries, and also

go into the engraving styles and kinds, which give the American collector more of a problem than the English collector.

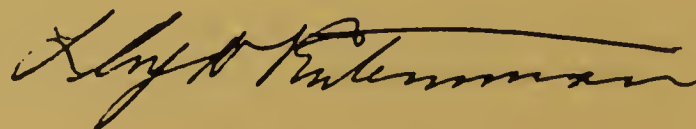
Due to the length of the book and the number of pictures, the book is going to be rather expensive. I had hoped the retail price would not exceed \$30.00. Since the Society cannot finance the publication, I will have to make other arrangements. I do want to give the members of the Society a break however, and have a suggestion to put before the membership at our annual meeting in August. Since most of you will not be at the meeting, I give you my suggestion now so that you can comment and be heard at the meeting through your correspondence. I propose the Society approve a motion to underwrite the sum of \$10.00 for each member as of December 31, 1990, who desires to purchase one copy of the forthcoming book on Love Tokens being authored by Lloyd L. Entenmann. I feel in this way, the savings that the Society has been able to achieve over the last three years can be returned to the members who were active during that period. Assuming we have 275 members by December 31st, and every member wants a book, the total gross cost to the Society would be \$2,750.00, which would still leave a balance of approximately \$2,800.00, a healthy balance. I would appreciate your thoughts on this proposal, especially if you will not be present in Seattle at the annual meeting. Whatever action is taken in August, I want it to be the feeling of the majority of the membership. Please let me hear from you!

We are still getting publicity outside the numismatic area. The magazine "VICTORIA" in the June issue had a six full page article "Tokens of Love" beginning on page 96, with a footnote that additional information could be found on page 126. On that page it noted that all love tokens in the article were by courtesy of Nancy Rosin, and further information on coins only could be obtained by contacting the Love Token Society, and gave my name and address. Of the six pages, four were full pages of a composite of various items of love including a number of pieces of coin love token jewelry. I have not as yet found out who authored this article, but we are indeed indebted to member Nancy Rosin for her input on the article. It was excellent, and so far I have had 5 inquiries as a result of this article. Congratulations Nancy Rosin!

Elsewhere in this Love Letter is the call for our annual membership meeting to be held on Friday, August 24, 1990.

I wish each and every one of you a most happy, healthy and pleasant summer and good luck in your love token quests.

Sincerely,



WANTED:

Love tokens on seated dimes with date of: 1846, 1866, and 1879, also Barber dimes on dates of: 1896, 1909, 1911, 1914, and 1915. Member Gordon Swetland needs these tokens to complete a project and will pay a premium depending on condition and artwork. Contact him direct by writing P.O. Box #1313, Hillsboro, OR 97123, or telephone (503) 642-7637.

WANTED:

Love tokens on U.S. small cents are wanted by member Craig Nodine, P.O. Box #2251, Irmo, SC 29063. If you have one or more that you would like to share with Craig, he will be glad to hear from you.

FOR SALE:

Exotic love tokens including gold and Seated Liberty Dollars, send SASE for list. Dr. Sol Taylor, P.O. Box 5465, N. Hollywood, CA 91616.

**A REMINDER:**

If you are one of the members that have not paid your dues for the year 1990, please send your check by return mail, otherwise this may be the last Love Letter sent to you. Thank you. Send your check to: Love Token Society, P.O. Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

**Charles H. Godfrey,
Secretary/Treasurer**

Love Tokens continued from page 1

Another tradition was to break a coin in half when announcing an engagement. The couple would each receive half of the engraved coin, to be joined together on their wedding day.

Love tokens were very popular on Valentine's Day and were called "Valentines in the Round".

After the Civil War, love tokens became a "fad" at state and county fairs and local carnivals. Calligraphers set up stands and engraved messages, initials and pictures on any coin for a fee. "You name it, we engrave it" was the slogan. Some came with pre-engraved coins with intricate designs. They would engrave names and initials on them upon request.

Toward the close of the 19th Century, the love tokens became so widespread that the United States Mint had to resume production of dimes to meet the demand.

In 1909 an unsympathetic government stepped in and a law was passed making it a criminal offense to "mutilate" coins of the U.S. The law is still on the books, but it is now interpreted differently - one may not deface a coin with the intent "to defraud".

As the years went on, love tokens started to decrease in popularity, and that is why you don't see them as much anymore.

From 1970 to 1973 a retired jeweler-artist from Colorado Springs, Colorado, by the name of Donald E. Knapp was the leader in a movement to revive love tokens. He took modern coins to make them. As fast as they started up, that's how fast they faded away - again.

The sad part about the story of love tokens is that some very rare, low-mintage coins were destroyed, and the numismatic value was lost forever.

This information has been compiled through numerous hours of research over the past 30 years.

Bernie Hermann, Jr.

CALL for ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Love Token Society, I hereby call the annual meeting of the Society to be held on **Friday, August 24, 1990 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington.** In addition to the regular business, action will be taken on an amendment to the By-Laws to establish a Life Membership Endowment, a motion to underwrite a \$10.00 per member rebate on the purchase of the forthcoming love token book being authored by Lloyd L. Entenmann, and the election of Officers for a two year term beginning January 1, 1991.

**Lloyd L. Entenmann
President**

Financial Statement

Balance as of March 30, 1990 \$5,859.31

Receipts

Dues	\$70.00
New Members	30.00
Checking Account- 3 months interest	79.14
Total Receipts	179.14

Sub-Total \$6,038.45

Expenses

Check #149 LL #128	\$72.35
Total Expenses	72.35

Balance as of May 30, 1990 \$5,966.10

Membership Report

Membership - March 31, 1990 256

New Members 3

Membership - May 31, 1990 259



New Members

Jeri Cochran, Urbana, IL
Anthony Vitali, Somerdale, NJ
Anthony L. Pesce, Brooklyn, NY

ADVANCE NOTICE

At the annual meeting of the Love Token Society to be held during the ANA Convention in August an election of officers to serve your Society for the next two years will be held. At the present time the following nominees have been submitted to the Secretary. President, Lloyd L. Entenmann; Vice President, Doug Jennings; Secretary/Treasurer, Charles H. Godfrey.

Your attention is directed to Article V, especially sections 3 & 4 of the Constitution and By-Laws quoted below:

Section 1: Elected Officers shall be: President, Vice-President and secretary-Treasurer. These Officers shall also act as the Executive Board.

Section 2: Appointed Officers by the Executive Board are: Love Letter Editor and one Regional Director for each of the established regions.

Section 3: Nomination of elected officers shall be made at the annual (August) meeting in even numbered years. If there is no opposition, nominees shall automatically be declared elected unanimously by the Secretary.

Section 4: If there is more than one nominee for any office, a ballot is to be mailed to every member to be returned by November 15th with results to be printed in the December Love Letter.

Section 5: Term of office shall be for two years beginning January 1st of each uneven number year.

Section 6: There is no restriction on the number of terms an elected or appointed officer may serve.

Section 7: All elected and appointed officers must be a member in good standing in the Love Token Society.

Action will also be taken on the Life Membership proposal, as submitted in the last Love Letter.

Do you want a membership directory printed? I have had several requests for a directory. Let us discuss it at our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Godfrey, Secretary/Treasurer



INTERESTING NEWS ITEM

Member John Cheramy of Victoria, B.C., Canada sent in the following news item that appeared in his local paper "The Victoria Times-Colonist" on February 12, 1990, which gives credit to the New York Times for the article:

"In kingdom of love, coins were main currency"

Years ago in the make believe kingdom of love, coins were the currency of the realm. As early as the 15th century, English coins were used as amulets and charms. These coins, believed to have special powers, were bent twice so no one would accidentally use them as money. Such coins, called benders, were often given to young ladies to charm them into love. Midwives, too, carried benders as good luck pieces while delivering babies.

Coins were the original wedding bands. In most marriage ceremonies, a coin would be broken in half with one piece going to the bride and the other to the groom. Englishmen would burnish the reverse of a half-penny until it was smooth and then engrave the initials of their true love on this blank. The coin would then be presented to the lady as a token of love.

* A very interesting article since it tells of midwives using benders as a good luck piece; also that a broken coin being used as a wedding band. This is the first indication of either use that I have found.

L.L.E.



Pricing Love Tokens *by Sol Taylor, Ed.D.*

Since no two love tokens are the same (rarely a pair of identical coins are used to make an identical pair of love tokens such as cuff links or earrings), each one is unique. However, a value can be placed on love tokens. Current buy ads from several collectors and dealers alike offer \$4 for common dime and other small coins used as love tokens with no damage and no more than one small hole. That is the base value for the most common love token - which by a LTS survey done in 1988 is just over 50% of all love tokens - the Seated Liberty Dime. Common quarters with monograms or initials bring \$7.50 wholesale. And Seated Liberty halves are on various wanted lists at \$10 minimum.

Factoring in for coin types, scarcity of certain dates, and special art work, values can rise substantially. In a sale I conducted a few years ago, a Seated Liberty Dime with a pair of baseball bats crossed with the initials "ABBC" above brought \$66. It represented probably one of the earliest baseball memorabilia known and thus the very high price. Today at a baseball convention it might bring hundreds. Likewise a love token with a special name can bring triple the usual price. I paid big money for the only love token I know of with "Sol" on it. Unfortunately, the woman's name was not my wife's. Likewise, an Indian Head cent dated 1877 (the key in the series) made into a love token with a monogram was sold a few years ago for \$75. Normally an Indian Head cent love token would bring \$5.

The STANDARD GUIDE TO LOVE TOKENS published a few years ago had price guides for all U.S. and Canadian type coins used as love tokens. If a new edition were done in 1990, there would be only modest price changes for most series. Many prices would remain pretty much the same. Collecting love tokens is fun, but hardly investment quality as with numismatic coins. Perhaps one day we'll see "slabbed" love tokens.

The STANDARD GUIDE is out of print, but perhaps your local coin dealer has a reference copy. The prices were based upon samplings of over 7,500 pieces in retail price lists, auction results, mail bid sales, and dealer-to-dealer transactions at major coin shows. I was personally gratified to have purchased and sold major holdings including that of the late Maurice Gould, Rudy Brill, Louise Tickle, the gold love token collection from a well-known New England collector, a 4,000 piece hoard from a Kentucky collector, and the stock of a San Jose coin dealer.

Unlike numismatic coins, love tokens are priced often by agreement between buyer and seller with a basic floor price established for the three value factors: 1) type coin used; 2) condition and date of type coin; and 3) the nature of the art work. The third factor is the variable which can make the piece a \$10 item to you but a \$100 item to me.

For instance, a few years ago I found in a dealer's case an engraved \$5 Liberty Head piece. It was priced a bit over the gold value which was \$150. The engraving referred to the person who had cut the fabulous Hope diamond in 1901 and was presented to him for his work. As a historical piece it was later sold for \$900 to the last jeweler who owned the Hope diamond. Among the rarest love tokens cited: a Goebrecht dollar engraved with someone's initials, a \$50 slug engraved on the uniface side, a Mormon gold piece engraved as an award for a horse show, a Barber half with a full face engraving of a local politician running for office, and a super rare 1796 half dollar (trends for \$8000) made into a memorial piece! There are of course many others. But for the price, love tokens are still a bargain.

Enamelled Coins - A Form of Love Token

As in many instances enamelled coins were given as tokens of love, it might interest love token collectors to know the origin of this art which in large measure, appears to have died out at the beginning of the First World War.

Very little seems to be known or to have been written about enamelled coins and I have based this article on the contents of the only four papers I have been able to find on the subject :

COINS & MEDALS, January , 1967 - "Enamelled Coins - A Short History", by F.J. Jeffery.

COIN MONTHLY, "Coloured Coins", by H. Seddon-Cox. N.D.

THE BIRMINGHAM POST, April 8, 1972,

"Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter", by John Slim.

"Beautiful Money - Enamelled Coins as Jewellery", by W.G. Symons. N.D.

Coin enamelling was a craft that sprung from Victorian fondness for unusual jewellery and it achieved an exquisite delicacy which can be seen in many of the examples surviving today.

Michael Noad of Melksham, England, who in 1972 had a collection of 160 pieces and at that time was hoping to write a book on them said, "The workmanship is so beautiful it is just incredible that they should have been able to produce things like this."

The method was to grout out all the background leaving the lettering and pattern proud. The enamel was applied in layers- If it was put on too thickly it cracked- and after being fired it was rubbed down until the design started to show through again. Then it was fired for the last time. If a head was being worked, the whole side of the coin would be grouted out, leaving the head in outline. Then head and background would be gradually built up together.

It is believed that the first enamelled coins were made by William Henry Probert, a jeweller's painter, who began his experiments at his premises at 109, Lionel Street, Birmingham, in 1884. The Probert coins have little to be said in their favor except that they show enterprise. As far as is known, they never contained more than three colours.

The man whose name emerges through the general uncertainty as the doyen of the coin enamellers is Edwin Steele, at 7, Regent Parade, Birmingham, who after the death of his father in 1886, established his own business - Edwin Steele and Son - at the same address.

Edwin himself died five years later but those five years included Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887, the

outstanding years for coin enamelling. Edwin's work was noted for the variety and brightness of the colours it included even on the smallest coin.

After Edwin Steele's death his son kept up the work but failed to maintain the standards and after the son-recorded only as H. Steele- died in 1900, the only Birmingham coin enamelling enterprise that is known to have remained was Smith and Hall, of 57, Northampton Street, which was responsible for some beautiful work on mint-condition coins until about the time of the First World War.

The French, however, were still at work enamelling coins until 1922, and probably the finest French enamelling was done by Louis-Elic Millinet. This can be seen on the early French 5 Franc piece and, of course, most of the Burmese Peacock Rupees- a large number of these having been sent home by the French troops serving in French Indo-China (now Viet Nam) to be enamelled to make brooches for their loved ones.

Enamelled coins were usually of silver or gold, because people did not think much of the idea of wearing copper as jewellery. They came as tie pins, cuff links, lockets, belt clasps, buttons, brooches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, etc.

Rarely were the coins enamelled on both sides, few people being willing to spend money excessively on the enamelling since only one side of the coin would be seen at any one time. Where this did take place the coin would be mounted in a swivel brooch so that each side could be exhibited when desired.

The enamelling was not just confined to English coins but to a wide range of countries in the world.

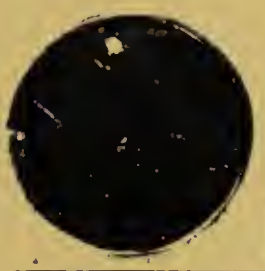


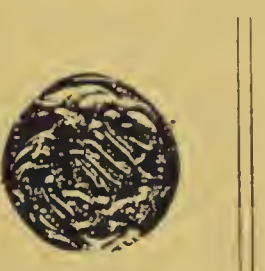
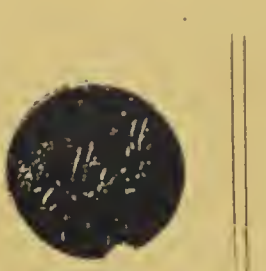



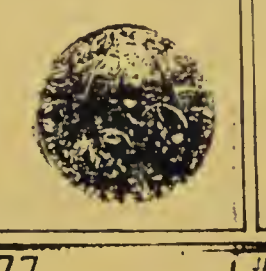
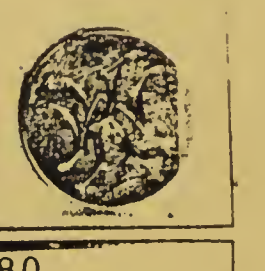
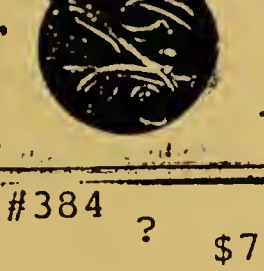
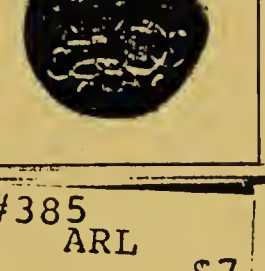
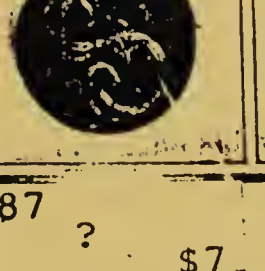
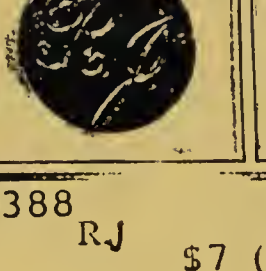
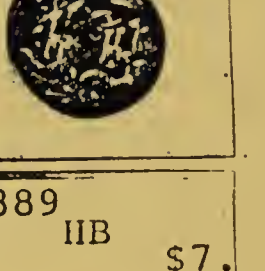
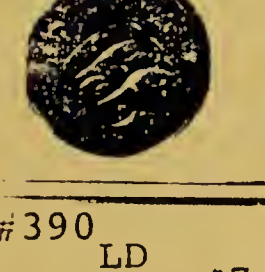
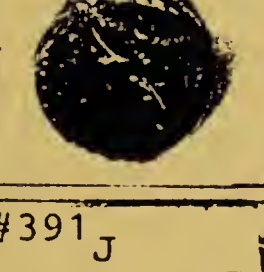
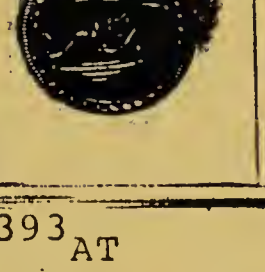


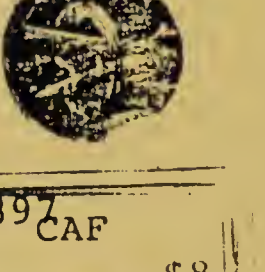
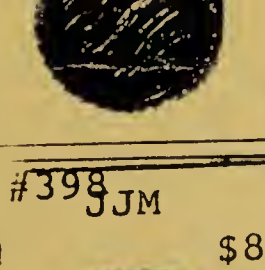
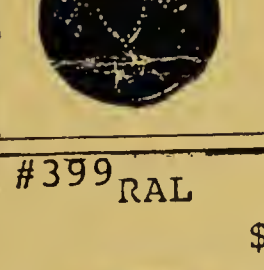
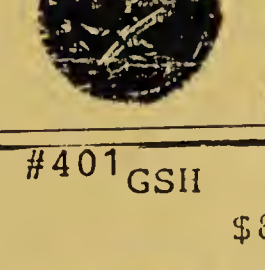
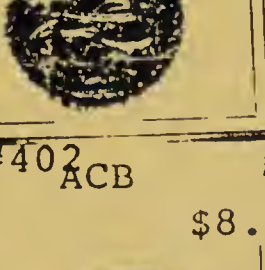
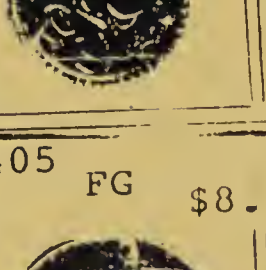
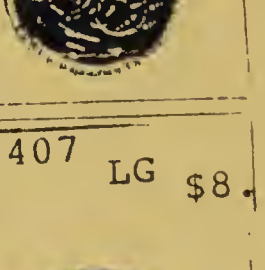
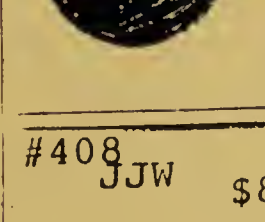
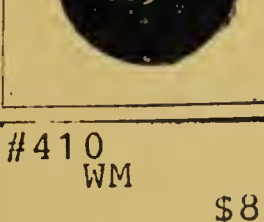
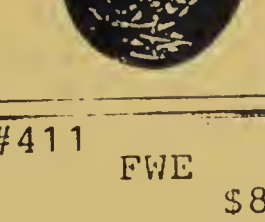
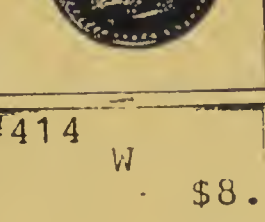
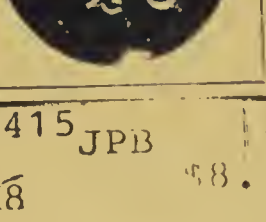
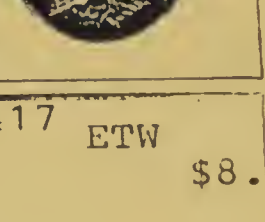
The enamelling of coins was not prohibited until 1920. In that year the Gold and Silver (Export Control) Act made it an offense to "melt down, break up or use otherwise than as currency any gold or silver coin."

One wonders, therefore, how present-day enamellers of circulating coins evade the law, as examples of "silver" coins are still being treated in this way. Could it be that the "silver" coins being cupro-nickel do not come under the Act? This modern enamelling is very inferior and bears no comparison with the beautiful enamelling of Victorian days.



I have not mentioned the art of oil-painting coins, but would mention that I possess two exquisite oil painted crown-sized South American coins depicting snow-covered mountains, fields, trees, grass huts, people and animals, all presented in appropriate colours.

**Compiled by Dennis Gordon Vorley,
Folkestone, Kent, ENGLAND**

Love Tokens for Sale

					
#361 BW \$6.	#362 JBC \$6.	#363 MLB \$6.	#368 CMK \$7.	#371 MM \$7.	
					
#372 BHL \$7.	#373 RU \$7.	#374 MEM \$7.	#375 WT \$7.	#377 CG \$7.	#380 WK \$7.
					
#383 MAC \$7.	#384 ? \$7.	#385 ARL \$7.	#387 ? \$7.	#388 RJ \$7 (5)	#389 HB \$7.
					
#390 LD \$7.	#391 J \$7.	#393 AT \$8.	#394 TG \$8.	#396 ECM 1899 \$8.	#397 CAF \$8.
					
#398 JIM \$8.	#399 RAL \$8.	#401 GSH \$8.	#402 ACB \$8.	#405 FG \$8.	#407 LG \$8.
					
#408 JJW \$8.	#410 WM \$8.	#411 FWE \$8.	#414 W \$8.	#415 JPB \$8.	#417 ETW \$8.

Love Tokens for Sale

					
#418 AMC \$8.	#419 (?) \$8.	#420 FSS \$8.	#421 IJF \$8.	#423 HH \$8.	#424 Eh \$9.
					
#428 PBOE \$9.	#431 EHM \$9.	#433 LGT \$10.	#434 BH \$10.	#435 MG \$10.	#437 MDF \$10
					
#440 Pah \$10.	#442 MIS \$10.	#445 Erv \$10.	#448 EHC \$10.	#452 JSB \$12.	#456 FRG \$12
					
#457 WMG \$12.	#458 MP \$12.	#459 JWL \$12.			

FOOTNOTES:

- 1. Engraved with fern like design on reverse
- 5. On Canada five cent piece
- 6. Cufflink reverse
- 8. On a jewelry blank disc stamped "Sterling"

- 9. On Canada five cent piece
- 12. Smoothed plain reverse
- 13. U.S. "V" nickel 1899
- 16. Smoothed reverse engraved 1891

All other love tokens are on U.S. dimes or quarters.

If you're interested in any of the above, please send a check to the president, Lloyd Entenmann, as soon as possible, including postage and insurance. Orders up to \$50, add \$1.25; over \$50, add \$2.25.

Love Token Exhibits Needed

The Society must have at least three (3) love token exhibits at the ANA Convention in Seattle, Washington, in August. If you have not already applied for an application, please do so at once. Request for application should be sent to ANA, 808 N. Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, attention Seattle Exhibits. If you have never exhibited before, now is a good time to start. Three awards are available, and you can almost be certain of getting one! It is very interesting to get involved in an exhibit, and is a lot of fun! If you plan to exhibit, please advise our President so he knows how to plan.



Love Token Society Love Letter

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
321 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506



Love Token Society

LOVE LETTER

No. 130



August 1990

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Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

LOVE TOKENS by Philip Meldrum

reprinted from *Coin Monthly*, October 1972

The romantic old tradition of giving and receiving coins as love tokens has long died out, it being an offence in these modern, materialistic times to deface a current coin of the realm. The latest love token known to the author is dated 1910, though subsequent ones may well exist. Some of the earliest recorded are referred to in the will of Sir Edward Howard, who in 1512 bequeathed '*my rope of bowed nobles... containing CCC angels*'.

In order that these keepsakes should not be spent the coins were either bent or engraved, the latter type being frequently pierced for suspension about the neck. Some were fashioned into brooches. Others were cut in two, one half being given to the beloved and the other being retained by the giver as a talisman. It was not unusual for a sailor to pierce his own half and wear it as a single ear-ring for protection against drowning.

A poignant piece in the author's collection, rubbed smooth and therefore unidentifiable as a specific coin, is crudely engraved on the one side with the words: '*Peter Hart aged 22, 1833. Transported for 7 years August 1833*'. Laboriously scratched on the other side (without doubt in a dark, dismal cell whilst its creator awaited embarkation) appears this sad, simple rhyme:

*'When you see this Remember me
And bear me in your mind
Let all the world say what they will
Don't prove to me unkind'*

Whilst one hopes the recipient proved faithful to her unfortunate lover, seven years in Botany Bay is nevertheless a very long time!

Most engraved tokens are rubbed smooth on one side only, a name such as ALICE, EVA, or, CONNIE, a monogram or a set of initials being worked on to this face, either with or without some form of design or embellishment. Occasionally a name is found engraved direct onto an untouched coin.

ENGRAVING

The engraving of coins as love tokens does not appear to have become common practice much before Victoria, during whose reign the bending of coins seems to have gone out of fashion. The usual method of bending was for a segment of the coin to be prised upwards, the piece being then turned through 180 degrees while the opposite segment was bent down, so that the coin viewed edgeways resembled an elongated letter Z. Of this type the writer owns a total of nine specimens from the reigns of Edward VI, Elizabeth I, Anne, George I, George III and William IV. None of these have been engraved, and the Edward VI specimen has been flattened again after initial distortion.

A reference to the custom of bending coins is contained in Joseph Addison's fanciful essay *The Adventures of a Shilling*, published in 1710, wherein an

continued on page 3

President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

How time flies! It seems like the summer just arrived, and now it is almost half gone! The time is at hand for our annual meeting. In my last message I asked for love token exhibits for the Seattle show and two members have responded, I had hoped for at least three to fill our plaque award program. An exhibit is a fascinating project, and once you try it, you will want to continue! It is also very rewarding! If you cannot attend the convention, arrangements can be made to set it up and take it down for you. Try a local show first if you so desire. An award program is available there too! See article elsewhere in this bulletin.

In my last message I also asked for comments on the proposal for the Society to underwrite a \$10 payment to any member who so desires to purchase one copy of the forthcoming book on the origin and development of love tokens. I received only three comments, all in favor. This is somewhat discouraging, as the Society is the benefit of all the members. While the officers put in a great deal of effort, we do it for your benefit, and we need to know whether you are satisfied or not, and if we are doing what you want! This applies to the Editor as well. Dr. Newhouse is trying to give you an interesting bulletin, and you can encourage him by sending him your comments.

The book is progressing slowly. I hit a snag on the engraving and by a stroke of fate, through the efforts of member F. W. Knecht, I was able to find much greater reliable data on engraving than I had. Bill Knecht is the owner of the Wendall August Forge Co. who does a great deal of specialty engraving work, and currently features engraving names on Morgan silver dollars. The book at this writing has 134 pages including 219 photographs. My target date of giving it to the printer by the end of this year seems a bit optimistic, at this point, but I will keep trying. The preparation of the photographs is the biggest problem, trying to get a photographer who can do the job satisfactorily.

In the June Love Letter there were 57 love tokens still available, and only 4 have been sold since then. I will have them with me at Seattle, and if they are not sold there, they will be returned to the owners. This is the most I have ever had to return. Usually all are sold and everyone is happy.

The response to the "VICTORIA" magazine article has been amazing - over 22 letters resulting in four new members so far! Prospective members are out there, we just have to find them.

If you are attending the Seattle show, please see me at our booth, and if possible, help out manning it, even if only for an hour or two. That will enable me to get to see a little of the show and find out what is available, and also to renew

and make new contacts.

At our annual meeting in Seattle, we will have an election of officers. With the new officers, I am planning to put on a renewed membership drive under the direction of the Vice President. The organization which was established two years ago will be revitalized and reactivated. I earnestly request every member to fully cooperate and help the Vice President to make this set-up to be productive and workable. It is intended to bring the members closer together for our mutual advantage. Where there is sufficient interest we want to set up regional meetings of the Society, so that we can get better acquainted with one another, exchange information and trade, buy, or sell love tokens.

Also at the annual meeting, action will be taken upon a recommendation to make an addition to our bylaws to provide for a life membership fund, and whether the members desire a membership roster, and if so, how often do they want it sent out.

If you attend the Seattle convention, please stop in and make yourself known, and attend our meeting on Friday, August 24 at 2:00 p.m. If you don't make the convention, please keep in touch, and don't forget to contact your officers if you have any questions or problems. We are here to help you, and if you don't ask we cannot help. In the meantime, stay healthy, good luck, be happy, and enjoy life. It's a great day to be alive!

Sincerely,

Lloyd L. Entenmann



WANTED:

Love token with the date 9-17 or September 17th on it. Please contact member John Pryor, P.O. Box 505, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

WANTED:

Love tokens on seated dollars or engraving/counterstamping on seated dollars for my collection. Please send description, price, etc. to: Paul Van Sant, P.O. Box 1164, Brooklandville, MD 21022 or phone 1-800-233-3573.

WANT A SPECIAL LOVE TOKEN?

Need a certain name? Monogram? Topic? Date? Send your want list to Dr. Sol Taylor, P.O. Box 5465, N. Hollywood, CA 91616. I have many sources, know of several hoards, and work with dealers who actively trade in love tokens.

**Love Tokens continued from page 1**

animated Elizabethan shilling tells of a recruiting sergeant at the time of the Commonwealth who '*...sacrificed me to his pleasures, and made use of me to seduce a milk-maid. This wench bent me*', continues the talking shilling, '*and gave me to her sweetheart, applying more properly than she intended the usual form of "To my love and from my love".*' From this literary reference can be gathered the fact that love tokens were not always fashioned from current coin. Indeed, the author recollects once owning an Elizabeth I sixpence on which had been scratched the name ALBERT and a soldier's number. The marking of this piece (which had not been bent and was pierced for suspension) was clearly not contemporary with the coin itself, the name Albert seeming to indicate the reign of Victoria.

The bowing of coins into a single curve does not appear to have been a particularly popular practice despite the terms of Sir Edward Howard's bequest, possibly by reason of the fact that the resultant shape made the coin both inconvenient to carry and uncomfortable to wear. Although the author has never seen a bowed coin that has also been pierced, it is evident from Sir Edward's will that this did in fact occur. With three hundred golden love tokens to his credit, he must have been quite a man!

LUCK PENNIES

The writer has heard it said that certain bent pieces are in fact 'luck pennies', this being an expression well known among the older members of the farming fraternity. When a bargain was sealed it was common practice for the purchaser, after he had handed over the purchase money, to ask for something back 'for luck' - the seller having doubtless made allowance for the existence of this custom before fixing his price! The purchaser was then handed back a coin in order to preserve his good fortune. Such coins are reputed in some quarters to have been bent before being returned to the buyer, but this seems improbable since the bending would have hampered their future usefulness as currency.

Tradition has it that love tokens were bent with the teeth. This also seems unlikely, however, especially after the introduction of milled coinage during the reign of Charles II. Apart from the fact that care of the teeth was sadly neglected in earlier times, it becomes manifestly obvious when one considers the principles of leverage that the dental disfigurement of coins by this method is a physical impossibility.

ROMANTICIST

Lest it be thought from the iconoclastic destruction of two popular misconceptions that the writer is not a romanticist, let him hasten to return you to your childhood with a nursery rhyme that could well have some connection with the subject in hand:

*There was a crooked man, and he walked a crooked mile,
He found a crooked sixpence against a crooked stile.*

Whilst this crooked curio may possibly have been a love token, the bent old gent presumably flattened his find before it was spent (no doubt with a crooked hammer), for it will be remembered that he bought with it a crooked cat that caught an equally crooked mouse!



Financial Statement

Balance as of May 30, 1990 \$5,966.10

Receipts

Dues	\$170.00
New Members	60.00
Reinstated	10.00
Checking Account- 1 month interest	28.43
Total Receipts	268.43
Sub-Total	\$6,234.53

Expenses

Check #150 Postage	\$27.40
Check #151 LL#129	111.04
Check #152 Postage	\$36.25
Total Expenses	174.69

Balance as of July 30, 1990 \$6,059.84

Membership Report

Membership - May 31, 1990	259
New Members	6
Reinstated	1
Membership - July 30, 1990	266



New Members

Debbie W. Marcum, Austin, TX
 Oda P. Green, Brookville, OH
 Daniel L. Carroll, Columbus, OH
 Paul Van Sant, Brooklandville, MD
 Marvin Bricker, Mt. Pleasant, IA
 Edward J. Sarrow, N. Hollywood, CA

Reinstated:
 Hyla Fox, Toronto, Canada

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Love Token Society will be held during the ANA Convention on Friday, August 24 at 2:00 p.m. Election of officers to serve your Society for the next two years will be held. At the present time the following nominees have been submitted to the Secretary. President, Lloyd L. Entenmann; Vice President, Doug Jennings; Secretary/Treasurer, Charles H. Godfrey.

Your attention is directed to Article V, especially sections 3 & 4 of the Constitution and By-Laws quoted below:

Section 1: Elected Officers shall be: President, Vice-President and secretary-Treasurer. These Officers shall also act as the Executive Board.

Section 2: Appointed Officers by the Executive Board are: Love Letter Editor and one Regional Director for each of the established regions.

Section 3: Nomination of elected officers shall be made at the annual (August) meeting in even numbered years. If there is no opposition, nominees shall automatically be declared elected unanimously by the Secretary.

Section 4: If there is more than one nominee for any office, a ballot is to be mailed to every member to be returned by November 15th with results to be printed in the December Love Letter.

Section 5: Term of office shall be for two years beginning January 1st of each uneven number year.

Section 6: There is no restriction on the number of terms an elected or appointed officer may serve.

Section 7: All elected and appointed officers must be a member in good standing in the Love Token Society.

Action will also be taken on the Life Membership proposal, as submitted in the last Love Letter.

Do you want a membership directory printed? I have had several requests for a directory. Let us discuss it at our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Godfrey, Secretary/Treasurer



Addendum to June's "Enamelled Coins" Article

The June issue of the Love Letter contained an article on page 6 entitled "Enamelled Coins - A Form of Love Token". We received a prompt reply to this article from Donald F. Payne of The Darius and Nordon Art Co. Ltd. in London and Romsey, England, who advertise "Hand-Crafted Amulet Jewellery - Britain's Finest Quality Enamelled Coins". They take exception to this statement in the article"

"This modern enamelling is very inferior and bears no comparison with the beautiful enamelling of Victorian days."

They claim their modern process is equal to if not superior to the Victorian methods, and further state that their process does not violate current English laws and have a letter of approval from "HM Majesty's Government Treasury Office" to prove it.

They have donated two of their enamelled English coins to the Society's booth and meeting in Seattle. The Wendall August Forge Inc., 620 Madison Avenue, Grove City, PA 16127 handles their entire line in the United States. Having seen the samples, they are truly beautiful.



REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee which has been appointed to select a slate of candidates to serve as Officers of the Love Token Society for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1991, has met, and after due deliberation and making a number of contacts, have arrived at a decision.

We have held discussions with each candidate, and each has agreed to serve in his respective capacity, if elected, to the best of his ability.

We are happy to recommend the following members to the respective positions to serve for the ensuing two year term:

President: Lloyd L. Entenmann, Audubon, NJ

Vice President: Douglas Jennings, Petersburg, MI

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles H. Godfrey, Huntingdon Valley, PA

Editor: Dr. Robert C. Newhouse, Manhattan, KS

LOCAL COIN SHOW EXHIBITS

The Love Token Society sponsors a Silver Certificate Award for a love token exhibit at any local coin show, whether or not a member of the Society. In the event there is more than one love token exhibit at the same show, the award is given to the one judged the best. A one year free membership in the Society also goes with the certificate. No prior approval to exhibit is required, only notification to the Society or direct to ANA headquarters of the name and address of the exhibitor, and the name, location, and date of the show. Exhibiting is great fun! Try it, you'll like it! It is interesting, educational and rewarding. If you need any assistance or advice, do not hesitate to contact any officer.



PRICING LOVE TOKENS, Part II

by Dr. Sol Taylor

There are not that many serious love token collectors, "serious" meaning persons who want a complete type set of love tokens or a date series of Seated Liberty Dimes, or a gold type set, or similar complete type of collection. Most collectors of love tokens (I know since I completed an extensive survey of the LTS a few years ago), have accumulations of love tokens, most of which are Seated Liberty dimes and most of which are monograms of no special significance.

To "serious" collectors, so-called common pieces suddenly have premium value. At least two collectors are vying for a date set of Barber dimes, quarters and halves. Needless to say, for certain dates - usually from 1910-1916, these two collectors will pay well above "normal" prices. In fact, Barber coins dated 1910-1916 engraved with monograms or other engravings are actually quite scarce. Another few collectors (perhaps three or four now) collect love tokens done on Columbian halves - the most commonly engraved commemorative half dollar. Again, anything I ever had on a Columbian half I could readily sell for two to four times the usual half dollar value to one of three serious collectors. In fact I sold a Columbian half engraved as a birthday souvenir to someone who was 21 when the Great Quake shook San Francisco in 1906. The coin was engraved twice - once for the birthday and secondly for the 'Great San Francisco Fire of April, 1906'. I sold that piece about 10 years ago for \$50.

Finally, most "serious" love token collectors are working on type sets. The bust coinage, early coppers, commemoratives, and post 1909 coins are in fact the least available. These pieces bring premiums and appear on many want lists. I also have several want lists requesting love tokens with a few specific names, initials, or monograms. These too, bring a premium well above the base value of the type of love token.

Any specialist knows his or her specialty narrows down to the most difficult pieces to find. Thus, when they advertise for pieces with a specific name, date, or scene, they are also prepared to pay extra for it. One collector wanted as many coins as he could find with his wife's name, Ruth. I found a \$5 gold piece at the ANA show in Boston in 1973 and he paid double what the dealer was asking. The dealer had the coin in his display case at least two years before he had an offer to buy.

Though collectors agree that love tokens are "mutilated" coins, they are certainly not all "culls". They are collected by many people and for some who

specialize they are indeed worth a premium - in a few cases even more than if they were not mutilated at all and sold for numismatic value alone.

For example, the 1836 bust half below is holed and engraved on both sides. Its numismatic value is perhaps \$3. However, its special historical value is very great and the sales price was in the thousands of dollars.



JACKSON MEMENTO

Engraved 1836 Capped Bust, Reeded Edge half dollar, part of the estate of Byron F. Johnson, Jr., sold in 1989, was believed to have been a memento sent by President Andrew Jackson to his namesake Andrew Jackson Ellis in New Haven, Conn. (Photo courtesy of Auctions by Bowers and Merena Inc.)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor and LTS Members,

Two items in the last issue bring the focus on the matter of love token values. President Entenmann states that the value of the coin is not important once it is mutilated to become a love token and cites two very high priced 1885 Nickel love tokens. The detailed article by Anthony Vigliota reflects a more reasoned approach to token values.

I wish to readily add, that the date of the coin DOES influence the value. I for example would pay many times the normal value of the Liberty head nickel love token to get an 1885 issue - but certainly not the \$300 to \$450 prices quoted. If a common date V-nickel love token was worth \$7, I would pay up to \$50 for a nice condition 1885 V-nickel - and so would quite a few others I know.

Likewise, an 1877 Indian head cent made into a love token is worth many times what a 1907 Indian head cent love token is. In fact, Q. David Bowers had an 1877 Indian head cent love token for sale some years ago at \$75 - a reasonable price for that scarce date. As a space filler to a collector it was worth the price. Also, to the few love token collectors who collect by dates, some dates warrant a premium.

As far as gold coins go, Mr. Entenmann is more accurate. For example, \$3 gold pieces bring only a bit more than \$2.50 and usually less than \$5. This is usually due to the fact that the date is on the reverse and rarity is unknown. But for those \$3 with dates visible will bring premiums if they are especially scarce or rare. Dealers will pay premiums for scarce date love tokens - I know - I have sold thousands of love tokens over the years - mainly to dealers - and know a scarce or rare date love token can bring more money than a common date. I bid \$400 a few years ago on a Goebrecht dollar that had been made into a love token - and was outbid handily at a Bowers and Marena sale. Using the "damaged coin" theory, my bid surely should have been many times what the coin was worth. It wasn't. And, I would gladly pay \$400 for a "Damaged" Goebrecht dollar.

These examples point out the fact that although a love token is a "damaged" or "mutilated" coin, if the coin is a scarce or rare coin, its numismatic value is not altogether lost - it is greatly reduced.

In those cases where the mintmark is on the reverse and thus one cannot determine what mint the coin is, as with most Seated Liberty coins, the prices depend

more on condition and workmanship than on date. But for scarce type coins (early bust coinage), 20 cent pieces, Seated dollars, territorial gold, and scarce dates within certain series (such as 1885 5 cent and 1877 1 cent), there is a premium warranted for the coin - since it is a scarce coin as well as a love token. Those two facets give it value.

As an aside, those dealers who rarely handle love tokens often overprice them - and rarely sell them. Those dealers who buy and sell love tokens pay right and sell right. And for the two 1885 nickels mentioned by Mr. Entenmann, if they are VF and XF, I will pay up to \$100 each and if they are VG-F, I will pay up to \$50 each. So would most collectors who know the value of scarce dated love tokens.

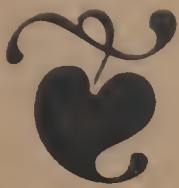
I hope this provides some guidance to collectors who go to shows or dealers to seek out love tokens. May it also provide some guidance to dealers who get lucky and buy collections including love tokens.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sol Taylor
ANA LM805

Sol Taylor, EdD





Love Token Society Love Letter

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
321 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

Love Token Society

LOVE LETTER

No. 131



November 1990

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AN UNUSUAL LOVE TOKEN

by Walt Mason

reprinted from TAMS JOURNAL, October 1982



Love is a many splendored thing. Love makes the world go round. Love heals all wounds. Love conquers all. Love letters in the sand. All the world loves a love story. How many such sayings do you remember?

What has this to do with numismatics - especially exnumia? Listen a while and I'll try to explain it to you.

Many years ago when the budget was really short, I began to collecting things I could afford - mainly items rejected by the purist collectors. In that day long ago no one collected love tokens; they were just mutilated coins of no value. For several years I had a field day collecting many different initials, scenes and types of coins. In time I even wrote a couple of articles and gave talks with slides at the area clubs. It sure was a lot of fun and also quite an ego builder.

One day while scrounging in a junk box, I came across a most unusual 1860-S Seated Liberty half dollar. Being so different and priced right, I naturally bought it. Since I couldn't read Chinese it rested on my desk for a couple of years. One Saturday, while talking across my back fence with my neighbor Buddy Dean, we entered into a discussion of jobs and the necessity of working for a living. I learned that Buddy hated his job with the U.S. Government; he spent all day matching Chinese characters - not knowing what they meant - just matching one document to another. I showed the half dollar to Buddy. No, he couldn't read it, but did say he would take it to work and show it to a friend there who was of Chinese ancestry; perhaps he could translate it.

This was his translation for the four lines of seven characters each:

- 1) "This thing, although small, means a great deal"
- 2) "Don't forget me when you meet another girl"
- 3) "Remember me far away when you see this"
- 4) "Seeing this should remind you that we meet again"

I thanked Buddy for his help, added the token to me collection, and really didn't think more about it for 12-14 years. Recently this item has kept coming back to nag me. After 39 years of marriage am I becoming mellow? Does romance mean more now than ever before? Did the marriage of my children trigger the subconscious and cause me to think again about the token found long ago?

continued on page 3

President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

The 99th Annual ANA Convention and the Annual Meeting of the Society in Seattle, Washington, is now history. As has been our practice in the last several years, the Society maintained a booth on the Midway at the bourse. The activity at our booth this year was unbelievable! We signed up 9 new members, and sold 77 love tokens for several members, in addition to two enamelled English tokens donated to the Society by Darius & Norton Art Company of London, England. There were numerous visitors who stopped and inquired about love tokens and wanted to know what they were. There were very few times when we did not have any visitors at the booth all during the show except for the last day, Sunday. There were a number of times when we had four or five people lined up waiting to ask questions. I am deeply grateful to the several members who stopped by the booth and lent a hand in taking care of some of the visitors.

Please read the minutes of our annual meeting which was held on Friday during the convention. Note the resumption of a roster and the addition to the bylaws establishing a life membership category. We also had an election of officers, and I wish to thank the members for your continued support in electing me for a third term as President. Due to the pressure of their business, Judy Murphy tendered her resignation as Vice President. As a result of the election, Douglas Jennings of Petersburg, Michigan, was elected Vice President, and Charles H. Godfrey was reelected as Secretary. With the unanimous consent of those present, Dr. Robert C. Newhouse was named to continue as Editor. The term of office begins as of January 1st of each uneven date year. Since the current Vice President has resigned, the Vice President elect has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Judy Murphy. A number of the members present commented on the great improvement in the Love Letter and praised the job being done by Dr. Newhouse.

The Society is planning a regional meeting in connection with the MANA show in Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 19-21. There will also be one love token exhibit at that show to our knowledge. I strongly urge more members to get involved with entering exhibits at shows. It is a lot of fun and you will be surprised at how much you will learn and how interesting it can be! "Try it! You will like it!" It is also rewarding!

There are a great many people out there who never heard of love tokens, and when they do a certain number become interested enough to want to join in

the hobby. We need to grow! Also speaking to others about love tokens brings a few out of the bureau drawers and closets of people who do not know what they have and now have a way to turn them into cash! If you don't want what they have, purchase them at a reasonable price, send them in to me, and we will advertise them in the Love Letter. So far since I have been providing this service, we have sold over 600 love tokens for members to members. Join the trend, get active! It pays!

The first draft of the book is about 80% written, but I have been slowed down by the increase in the fall activities, and the research required to get the photography and publishing sources finalized, which is not only expensive, but hard to find people who are interested. I am still hopeful for a 1991 release. This is my first attempt at ever writing a book of this magnitude, and since I am somewhat of a perfectionist, you cannot imagine how much time can be consumed in just getting one little detail correct. While it is so time consuming, it is extremely interesting, and I enjoy it!

We are rapidly approaching dues time again, and I urge you to pay your dues early. They are due and payable in advance on January 1st for the current year. If you will refer to the financial reports, you will note that we have gained a nice increase in members for the year, but the Secretary informs me that we will lose about 45 in December for non-payment of dues for the year 1989! These members have received several personal letters, but no response! This is very discouraging to your officers who work very hard all year to show progress, and then in December it is all for naught!

For all our members in the southeast corner of the country, try to plan on attending the FUN show in Orlando, Florida, January 3-6, 1991. The Society will have a regional meeting during the show and will also have a booth on the floor all during the show. We would also like to have two or three love token exhibits at this show. This is a big show and worth attending. This year the new Quality Inn, only a block away from the Convention Center and on the same side of the street, is offering extremely low rates (unless sold out) as compared to the Peacock.

In closing, I extend to each of you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving, good health, and happy love token hunting.

Sincerely,



WANTED:**SPECIAL LOVE TOKEN**

Bertram H. Cohen is a collector of "marbles", a springtime boys game played usually on a brick pavement. He has heard that there is a love token showing children playing a game of marbles, and he is very anxious to obtain such a token. If you have, or know of anyone who has, such a token, or anything relating to marbles, please contact Bert direct at 169 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA 02116

A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Love Token Society is especially grateful to Darius & Norton Art Co. of London and Romsey, England, for their donation of two enamelled English coins on a neckchain. These were sold for a total of \$85.00 at the Seattle show, and the proceeds added to our treasury. A member of their company, Trevor Pavit, is a member of our Society. In addition to enamelling English coinage, they can also enamel any other coin on order. Through our connection, they now have a United States representative, the Wendall August Forge Company, 620 Madison Ave., Grove City, PA 16127. The President of this company, F.W. Knecht III, also is a member of our Society. This company has two full time professional engravers on their staff, and can engrave any coin to your specifications. They are the ones who engraved the two love tokens that we presented to Prime Minister Margaret H. Thatcher last year.

An Unusual Love Token continued from page 1

So in reading the inscription again I saw a great deal more than I saw years ago. It's obvious to me that this young couple knew long before the token was given that he was to go away. Why? Did business call? Was his family moving to another province? Was it related to the military service? Whatever the reason, he was leaving! Can you picture the many days and nights before he left - the talk of the future - the expressions of undying love one for the other - the promises to wait for each other no matter how long? Sometime during the last weeks or months the young lady had this token made and probably presented it on their last night together - very tearfully and lovingly.

Did it work? Were they reunited and married, and did they have a family and live happily ever after? I think so because I'm one of a multitude that believes that true love will endure, and that most stories have happy endings. You see, the token carried by the young man was a constant reminder of the one he left behind. Not like a love letter, which is read and put aside. Every day - all day - the token was sort of like an engagement ring; a reminder of the one you loved the most, and of your goal to return to the one thing in life that at that moment was the most important of all.

The reunion was a joyous occasion. The wedding tender and beautiful, with the whole town celebrating the ceremony and wishing them well. How do I know this? Well, it's my token and "Love and you shall be loved - love and your dreams come true."

Mine did - how about yours?

**LOVE TOKENS WANTED...**

I have several requests from members who are anxious to get specific love tokens. Look over the list, and if you have anything that they may be interested in, please send me a description and/or a photograph or tracing and your asking price. You will get a reply one way or another:

- 1) Any denomination on English preferred or American with initials "SH".
- 2) Any denomination on U.S. coin with initials "SER" or "SR".
- 3) Any denomination on U.S. coin with initials "M", "MM" or "MGM".
- 4) Any pictorial love tokens, any stringed instruments, or gold.
- 5) Any denomination on U.S. coin with initials and fancy design "D", "DM" or "M".
- 6) Any denomination with initials "DBG".
- 7) A mourning or death engraved token, preferable on a silver coin showing name, date of death, and some kind of related figure. It can be a regular coin or as a piece of jewelry.
- 8) Initials on a quarter only: "S", "SD", "MAW", "M" or "W".
- 9) On any denomination: "Jennifer", "Susan", "Lisa", "Kate", "Katie", "Amanda", "ANJ", "SJJ", "AKT" or "MJT".

If you have any tokens that may fit any above description, please send the information to Lloyd Entenmann, 130 Cornell Road, Audubon, NJ 08106. The requesters will be advised and their answers relayed back to you, yes, no, maybe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Financial Statement

Balance as of July 30, 1990	\$6,059.84
Recēipts	
Dues	\$40.00
New Members	170.00
Reinstated	10.00
Checking Account- 2 months interest	57.23
Contributions	10.00
Commission on sale of Love Tokens	95.00
Sale of donated enamelled Love Tokens	85.00
Total Recelpts	467.23
Sub-Total	\$6,527.07
Expenses	
Check #153 Photo Sight & Sound (Rent Proj.)	\$54.05
Check #154 LL #130	112.60
Total Expenses	166.65
Balance as of Sept. 30, 1990	\$6,360.42

Membership Report

Membership - July 30, 1990	266
New Members	17
Reinstated	1
Membership - Sept. 30, 1990	284

* * SPECIAL NOTICE * *

At our annual meeting the members voted to have a directory listing the names and complete addresses of our members. This directory is to be for the use of Love Token Society members only. It is not to be distributed to your dealer friends. If a member does not wish to have his address listed please send a letter to that effect to the Secretary, Post Office Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, by december 1, 1990. If your notice is not received by December 1, 1990, I can not guarantee that your address will not be published as the directory will be issued in early 1991.

SEATTLE LOVE TOKEN EXHIBITS

For the first time in several years, we had 4 love token exhibits at the ANA annual convention in Seattle, Washington In August, which put us back in the good graces of the ANA. At the last minute one exhibit was changed to non-competitive, leaving three competitive. The final decision of the judges was announced on Saturday, August 25th, and the respective plaques awarded:

First Place: Kenneth Barr, San Jose, CA

Second Place: John J. Smies, Courtland, KS

Third Place: Agnes R. Alones, Floral Park, NY

Congratulations to all, and our sincere thanks for your wonderful cooperation and support. Please plan on entering again in Chicagol



• • • New Members • • •

R.G. Rowswell, Edmonton, AB, Canada
 Mary Ann Mellema, Palatine, IL
 Robert Roger Higdem, Boise, ID
 Joseph Lipsius, Atlanta, GA
 Stephen A. Silva, Hayward, CA
 Howard K. Williams, Rockwood, MI
 Don Burns, Millbrae, CA
 Erik Goldstein, New York, NY
 Albert L. Hall, Waukegan, IL
 Dick McTighe, Spokane, WA

Sue Naven, Portland, OR
 J.T. Stanton, Savannah, GA
 Robert M. New, Roanoke Rapids, NC
 Aubrey L. Cupp, Reno, NV
 Bobbie A. LeBlanc, Lake Charles, LA
 William E. Gardner, West Columbia, SC
 Michael G. Miller, APO SF, CA

Reinstated:
 Rolla R. Ross, Ft. Pierce, FL.

1990 Love Folder Available

The 1990 Love Folder includes a block of four of the new Love stamp, a sentimental message and a 25-cent "LOVE!" envelope for mailing purposes. The phrase "Lovebirds sing the heart's refrain" graces the front cover and compliments the stamp design, and an appropriate four-line verse appears on the inside of the folder.

The folder may be ordered from:
U.S. Postal Service
Philatelic Sales Division
P.O. Box 449990
Kansas City, MO 64144-9990
(Item No. 8810 - \$3.50)

AMERICAN FUNNY PEOPLE!

Chinaman say: " 'Melicans funny people: make tea hot, put in ice to make cold; put in sugar to make sweet, put in lemon to make sour; say "here to you", then drink it himself." Strangel

To the Membership

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Doug Jennings and I have been elected Vice President of the Love Token Society. I teach 8th grade English and middle school journalism. Also I coach football, basketball and track. My wife and I have two children, an 8 year old son, Dan, and a 4 year old daughter, Dori. I am also the president of my local Monroe Coin Club, the home of Dr. Heath, founder of the ANA.

My first responsibility is to find people to fill various positions of regional director and local (state) directors. Lloyd envisions a network of directors to help lessen the load of responsibilities for the club's officers. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me immediately. We need a lot of people, and any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Also I want to remind everyone that we need exhibitors at the national, state and local levels for Love Tokens. We will need exhibitors for that Granddaddy of a show next year in Chicago. Anyone participating at the local level and is a winner will receive a Silver Certificate and a one year membership in the LTS.

Last but not least, try to develop interest at the local level by advertising the LTS. Write an article for your local paper, write one for your local coin club newsletter (that's what I did), or just send a membership announcement to your local paper and ask it to publish it. I thought about dropping some informational material at my local post office because of the "Love" stamps they have on display there. If you do something, let me know so I can share it with the other officers, regional directors, or the membership.

If you have any questions, problems, or just want to talk about love tokens or collecting in general, give me a call or drop me a line.

Doug Jennings
313-279-1728
2616 Summerfield Road
Petersburg, MI 49270



LOCAL COIN SHOW EXHIBITS

The Love Token Society sponsors a Silver Certificate Award for a love token exhibit at any local coin show, whether or not a member of the Society. In the event there is more than one love token exhibit at the same show, the award is given to the one judged the best. A one year free membership in the Society also goes with the certificate. No prior approval to exhibit is required, only notification to the Society or direct to ANA headquarters of the name and address of the exhibitor, and the name, location, and date of the show. Exhibiting is great fun! Try it, you'll like it! It is interesting, educational and rewarding. If you need any assistance or advice, do not hesitate to contact any officer.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

August 24, 1990

The annual meeting of the Love Token Society was held Friday, August 24, 1990, at the Convention Center during the 99th Annual American Numismatic Association meeting in Seattle, WA. Twenty-two persons signed the register, however there were more persons present that did not sign the register as they came into the meeting after it started. Also in attendance were Marilyn Van Allen, reporter for Coin World and Bob Van Ryan, reporter for Numismatic News.

The meeting was called to order by President Lloyd Entenmann. The minutes of the last stated meeting were read and approved. Mr. Entenmann then introduced Nancy Wilson, of the ANA. Nancy welcomed the members to Seattle and spoke about the 100th Anniversary meeting, to be held in Chicago on August 12-18, 1991. Mr. James Taylor, ANA Educational Services Director, speaking for Robert Leuver, announced that at 5:00 PM a program on the history of the ANA will be presented and he invited all the members to attend and learn of the past 100 years of the ANA.

After some discussion concerning a life membership proposal, Ken Barr moved that the by-laws be amended to accommodate a life membership classification. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The by-laws were amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV:

Section 3: A member in good standing may become a life member of the Society upon full payment of a life membership fee. Such member shall thereafter be relieved of any further annual dues for the balance of his or her natural life.

Section 4: The life membership fee is \$200.00 payable in one lump sum, or in installments over a maximum period of three years. Benefit of life membership does not become effective until the full fee has been paid in for one full year. Thus the dues must be paid for the current year in which the full life membership fee has been paid.

Section 5: Life membership fees are to be deposited in a certificate of deposit in a federally insured bank or savings and loan in a separate account, and not commingled with any other Society funds. A separate permanent record is to be kept of all fees paid into this account, and the interest is to be credited to this account. Each January, the Secretary will withdraw from this account the current years dues for each living

life member. A paid in life membership is non-transferable.

Section 6: An annual report is to be submitted and published each February in the "Love Letter". In the event the Society should disband, the entire fund shall be given to the American Numismatic Association to be added to a permanent endowment fund, and be administered by their investment committee.

Mr. Entenmann announced that there were four Love Token exhibits. Mr. Entenmann withdrew his exhibit from the competition, to allow the other members a better opportunity to receive an award.

The nominating committee, consisting of Anthony Vigliotta, Chairman; Danny Robinson and Dennis Helmer presented their report. They recommended Lloyd L. Entenmann for President, Douglas Jennings for Vice President, and Charles H. Godfrey for Secretary-Treasurer. Since a number of members present commented on the excellence of the Love Letter since Dr. Newhouse has become Editor, the president was requested to reappoint him to this position. Agnes Alones moved that the nominating committee report be accepted. It was seconded and there being no further nominations from the floor the officers were unanimously elected. Judith Murphy resigned as Vice President effective this meeting, therefore Doug Jennings will assume the Vice Presidency immediately instead of the usual January 1st date. Subsequently the President re-appointed Dr. Robert C. Newhouse as Editor.

Lloyd spoke about the difficulty he was having in getting some engraving and copyright authorizations for his book, and the rising costs involved in its publication.

Danny Robinson moved that all members in good standing as of December 31, 1990 who want to purchase Lloyd's book be given a \$10.00 credit from the Society, this credit will be given to Lloyd to help defray the costs of publication. June Hallenbeck seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A discussion was held on the publication of a membership directory of the Love Token Society. Agnes Alones moved that if the members do not want their names and addresses published they send a letter to the Secretary notifying him of this intent. It was seconded and unanimously approved. The directory will be printed every other year after the election of

continued on next page

officers. A supplement will be issued in the intervening years.

At the conclusion of the business meeting a new slide presentation, prepared by member Bill Fivaz was given its premier showing to the Society. It was a type set of slides on various U.S. denominations and was excellently received by those persons in attendance. It will be presented to the ANA for their library.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Godfrey,
Secretary/Treasurer



Hawaiian Coin Napkin Rings

by Dr. Sol Taylor

P.O. Box 5465

N. Hollywood, CA 91616-5465

Love token collectors know that coins from Hawaii are scarce. And love tokens made from Hawaiian coins are very scarce. However, at the recent Long Beach Coin Expo, I found a pair of napkin rings each made from six high grade Hawaiian quarters. Over the years I have seen perhaps a dozen pairs of such napkin rings. I assume that's what they were made for since they are much too small even for a child to wear as a bracelet and they seem to have no other practical use. The question this raises, is why would anyone go to effort of using scarce coins (Hawaiian coins were scarce in the U.S. even in 1883) to make this particular type of ornament? I recall seeing one such set of Hawaiian quarter napkin rings with one piece engraved with someone's monogram. Undoubtedly some well-to-do families in Hawaii in the last century thought these would be nice table ornaments. Is this the case? I cannot recall seeing napkin rings made of U.S. quarters, though I have seen a few made from coins from various European nations. Does anyone know about this custom or more specifically, about the Hawaiian napkin rings?

The price for the pair mentioned earlier was \$75. Had the coins been engraved or even one in each pair engraved, I probably would have bought the pair. But since they were not love tokens or had any engraving, I passed.

Letter to the Editor

April 29, 1990

Dear Editor,

I received your very nice letter telling me that the article about love tokens will be in the June Love Letter. I also forgot to tell you at that time I sent you the letter about a great love token find at the ANA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA in August 1989.

I found a Liberty V nickel in extremely-plus fine condition, dated 1885. Had it not been made into a love token, it would have been worth \$700 to \$800 dollars in numismatic value red book. I paid \$75 dollars. I walked to the other side of the room at the ANA Convention and a dealer offered me \$200 dollars. I said to myself, I hit the jackpot.

Then about an hour later another dealer offered me \$250 dollars. He wanted it very bad. I was never so happy in my life over a coin. I could not wait to get home with this love token before something happened to it. This last dealer wanted my phone number and address so he could get in touch with me from time to time if I would sell it, so he could buy it. They were both also love token collectors.

The second dealer said that this love token is equivalent to the 1804 Silver Dollar in love token collecting.

I will never, ever sell this coin again. It had a beautiful bird with leaves engraved on the reverse side. I just had to tell you about this love token that I found.

Thank you for everything. Sincerely,

Bernie Herrmann Jr.

Bernie Herrmann, Jr.
1512 Maryland Ave.
West Mifflin, PA 15122





Love Token Society Love Letter

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

321 Bluemont Hall

Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS 66506

MORGAN DOLLARS IN LOVE

Very Special Tokens of Affection

by William S. Nawrocki

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ... how do I express my love." With jewels and furs and tokens of affection, with poems, and acts of love. Man has sought to honor his loves in countless ways and in many forms of gifts. It seems Victorians were able to come up with some rather unique gifts of money to their loves, but the gift was highly personal. Some English halfpennies made as love tokens have been found dated as early as 1760.

The term "love token" came about who knows when, but the popularity of such items and their variety is magnificent. I have seen coins of all denominations from cents to yes, gold five dollar coins engraved with the most intricate carving. Generally speaking, the coin, usually ground off on one side, is engraved by a jeweler with the person's initials. A number of pieces I have seen are gold inlaid over the initials. On occasion, the pieces have animals and scenes which are quite nice. Morgan pieces are quite rare, as a dollar in those days would represent a man's wages for a week. Due to the surface available on the coins, the engraving tends to be more elaborate and finely executed by the engraver.

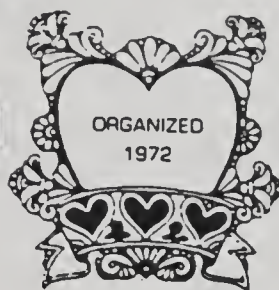
The popularity of the pieces among men and women is highlighted by the masculinity of some engravings. Many pieces were made into lapel pins, some broaches, and some were hung on heavy chains. Still, it seems most were pocket pieces like good luck charms, and were treasured.

I have seldom seen a worn specimen. I assume the coins of lesser denominations were affordable for the average person, as there are abundant quantities. Note that no two appear to be the same. They were given as special presents, for weddings, for anniversaries, birthdays and special holidays. The Morgan Dollar types are exclusive, scarce and no doubt were commissioned by people of prominence. Keep in mind, love tokens are special gifts for special people given by their loved ones. Love tokens are fun to collect and for the most part inexpensive in today's marketplace of numismatics.

Love Token Society

LOVE LETTER

No. 132



December 1990

Love Token Society Officers

President

Lloyd L. Entenmann
130 Cornell Road
Audubon, NJ 08106
609-547-2857

Vice President

Doug Jennings
2616 Summerfield Road
Petersburg, MI 49270
313-279-1728

Secretary/Treasurer

Charles H. Godfrey
P.O. Box 1049
Huntingdon Valley, PA
19006
215-947-4856

Love Letter Editor

Robert C. Newhouse
3200 Ella Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502
913-539-1831

Love Letter Design

Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

COIN RINGS

by DR. SOL TAYLOR

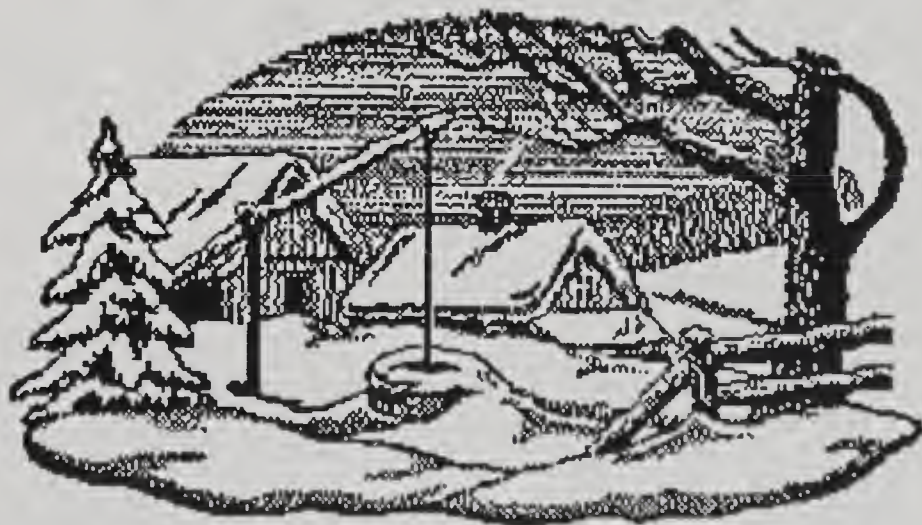
As a sailor during the Korean Conflict (1953-1955), I had plenty of time aboard ship between watches and off duty time. Some of the men aboard the ship had various skills which enabled them to use the shop lathe to create interesting items from shell casings, used tools, and anything else made of metal. I still have a brass ashtray made from the base of a 5-inch expended shell casing. One seaman used to pound out silver quarters into elongated coins and then hammer them on the edges and make them into rings about the size of an average man's ring finger. The coin details were still visible.

I had seen several others at coin shows usually of French and Australian coins -- usually of type coins seen in those places during World War II.

When this practice began would be hard to say. But with time on their hands men such as sailors or prisoners could repeat the process and a time-consuming activity as a practical craft -- since these rings could be sold or traded.

Coins hammered and fashioned into jewelry have been seen for centuries. The craft of jewelry making has always relied upon available metals such as gold or silver.

This is in response to a request from LTS member Joseph Baranyi, Sr. who inquired about the subject in the October, 1989 issue of the Love Letter.



Happy Holidays

President's Message

by Lloyd L. Entenmann

We are rapidly approaching the end of another year, and as we look back, The Love Token Society has enjoyed a very successful year. There has been a tremendous improvement in our Love Letter, and in addition our Editor has been successful in holding the cost of the Love Letter to a bare minimum which has saved us a considerable amount of cost. Through donations and commissions earned on selling members love tokens we have made a considerable contribution to our treasury. The officers have held their expenses to a very nominal sum, absorbing most of their expenses personally. Due to the health of our treasury, the membership approved underwriting a \$10.00 reduction to the members as of December 31, 1990 on the purchase of one copy of the forthcoming text book on the origin and development of love tokens, due to be available, hopefully, in mid 1991. We had to drop a number of members for nonpayment of dues, but we had an increase in the number of new members coming in, so that our membership is holding its own.

We had an excellent showing of love token exhibits at the ANA Midwinter and annual convention, in addition to several local shows. All during the year our publicity has been the greatest we have ever had, not only in Coin World and Numismatic News, but in several other local and national publications.

A great deal of time, effort, and expense has been put into the writing of the first known text on love tokens, which at the moment is complete in the first draft stage. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting the photography work and the printing done at a reasonable cost.

Our efforts now must look forward to the year ahead. There is a lot to be done, but if we all pitch in and do our small bit, we can have another great year in 1991. The Society will have a booth at the FUN show in Orlando in January and a booth at the ANA 100th anniversary Chicago Convention. We had a local meeting in Virginia Beach in October at the MANA show, but only 5 members were present. If the members in the Middle Atlantic area will support it, I will arrange to have another meeting in Washington next October. If you would attend such a meeting, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will arrange another meeting if we will have enough to attend. I would also like to have two or three love token exhibits at that show.

We will have a meeting and a booth at the FUN show

in Orlando in January, which is noted elsewhere in this bulletin. In addition if enough members will attend, we can have a meeting in Dallas at the ANA Midwinter, but you will have to let me know by December 31st if you will support such a meeting.

I want to again encourage the members to get involved with exhibits! They really are a lot of fun in spite of the work and effort required. Once you exhibit, you will want to do it again. If you have any questions or need any help please contact me. I will do all I can to help you. It really is a lot of fun and gives you a great deal of pride and satisfaction to see your exhibit out there in the exhibit area along with a great many other exhibits.

Please don't forget to pay your 1991 dues NOW! According to our By-Laws, dues are due and payable on January 1st each year in advance, and if not paid by May, you are liable for suspension! This is a short period of time, but it has been brought up several times at the annual meeting, and the members are not in favor of changing it.

It has really been a pleasure to serve the Society as your President for the last four years, and I promise to continue to devote my efforts in the interest of the Society during the new term beginning January 1st. In keeping with the season, I extend to each and every member and your families the season's greetings, and I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER HERBERT BARCLAY

Herbert Barclay entered a love token exhibit at the New England Numismatic Association show held in Worcester, Maine, October 19-21. As they did not have a love token category, his exhibit was in the miscellaneous category, and he was judged and awarded first prize in that category -- where the competition is much more keen! He will be awarded the Society's Silver Certificate Award and receive one year free dues. Congratulations Herbert! To the rest of the members - "Go thou and do likewise!"

LOVE TOKENS WANTED

(All U.S. coins) Half Cent, Buffalo 5 cent, Bust \$1, Peace \$1, \$5 Indian, \$20 Coronet, and \$20 St. Gaudens. Please contact Thomas Casper, 3581 S. 75th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53220.

WANTED

Love tokens on half cents, large cents, Bust coinage, Barber coins dated 1909-1916, Lincoln Cents, and Buffalo nickels. Contact Dr. Sol Taylor, P.O. Box 5465, North Hollywood, CA 91616-5465.

LOVE TOKENS WANTED...

In the last Love Letter under this heading we listed a number of items. Only one response was received and that for an initial that three members are looking for, so that list still remains unfilled. In addition, in this issue we add the following wanted items:

10) On U.S. or British coins no larger than a quarter the following: "R", "RM", "RWM", "DEBBIE", "ROGER", October 1, November 25, December 3, 10/1, 11/25, or 12/3.

11) Enamelled love tokens, farm scenes, animals, metal overlays.

If you have any of these wanted items and are willing to sell, please contact the President as soon as possible, as there are anxious buyers just waiting to purchase.



Love Token Exhibits for Chicago

How well are you progressing with a love token exhibit for the 100th ANA Anniversary Chicago Convention? This convention will be the biggest coin convention ever, and we want to have love tokens well represented in the exhibit section. If you have never exhibited before, it may seem like an impossible task, but believe me, I know from experience, it is something you will never regret or forget!

Review your collection! Look at what you have! What are you most proud of? What gives you the most pleasure? How would you tell a friend about it? When you have answered these questions, you are well on the way to completing an exhibit. If you want more information, please do not hesitate to contact your President or Vice President for help. They will be more than glad to help you with whatever problems or questions you may have.

When that final day arrives, and you set up your exhibit in the case or cases, and they are sealed, you give a sigh of relief and look at your exhibit, and suddenly you feel your chest swell up! That my exhibit! During the next few days, thousands of people will look at that exhibit! They won't know me, and I won't know them, but it's my exhibit, my love tokens, my sweat! What a thrill! You already begin to think what can I do next? It is hard to imagine that joy now, but later, you will and kick yourself for not starting sooner. Believe me, it is true, I have been there!

- Lloyd Entenmann



Autence Bason Honored at MANA in Virginia Beach

The Mid-Atlantic Numismatic Association (MANA) held their fall show in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on October 19-21. It was a small show, but excellently planned with most courteous dealers, and a wonderful program. The Society held a meeting on Saturday which was attended by Autence Bason, Ruth hammel, and Louise Tickle in addition to your Secretary and President. We had an interesting hour and a half session. On Sunday morning we attended the awards breakfast, and during the course of the program our own Autence Bason was given three awards: 1) the Alex Kaptic memorial Award for the "Numismatist of the Year" (a cash award); 2) People's Choice Award for a Communion Token Exhibit; and 3) Club Member Award for 1990 from the Greensboro Numismatic Club. Our heartiest congratulations to Autence!

Financial Statement

Balance as of Sept. 30, 1990 \$6,360.42

Receipts

Dues	\$1,220.00
New Members	20.00
Checking Account- 2 months interest	59.19
Donations	25.00

Total Receipts \$1,324.19

Sub-Total \$7,233.74

Expenses

Check #155 Postmaster	\$ 29.80
H.V. Postage	
Check #156 Postmaster	158.40
Check #157 Printing	124.00
Letterheads	
Check #158 LL #131	138.67
Dr. Robert Newhouse	

Total Expenses 450.87

Balance as of Nov. 30, 1990 \$7,233.74

Membership Report

Membership - Sept. 30, 1990	284
New Members	2

Subtotal 286

Less

Resignations	2
Suspensions	22

Subtotal 24

Membership - Nov. 30, 1990 262

• • • New Members • • •

Andrea Lacey, Wrentham, MA
Larry Johnson, Colorado Springs, CO

• • • Welcome! • • •

* * SPECIAL NOTICE * *

At our annual meeting the members voted to have a directory listing the names and complete addresses of our members. This directory is to be for the use of Love Token Society members only. It is not to be distributed to your dealer friends. If a member does not wish to have his address listed please send a letter to that effect to the Secretary, Post Office Box 1049, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, by December 30, 1990. If your notice is not received by December 30, 1990, I can not guarantee that your address will not be published as the directory will be issued in early 1991.

From the Secretary-Treasurer

I wish to thank all the members that responded promptly to the dues statement. I also want to remind 25 members that still owe dues for the year 1990, they must pay before December 31, 1990 if they expect to be eligible for the \$10.00 Love Token Society discount on Mr. Entenmann's book. I wish everyone a very Healthy and Happy Holiday Season. May the year 1991 bring you much joy and success in your love token endeavors.

Charles Godfrey, Secretary-Treasurer



Love Token Society at the FUN Show in January

The Society will have a booth at the FUN Show being held at the Orange County Convention center, 9800 International Drive, Orlando, Florida, January 3 through 6, 1991. The Society will also hold a regional Society meeting on Friday, January 4 at 1:00 p.m. If you attend this show, which equals the ANA Convention, be sure to stop at the booth and attend our meeting. Also if you attend this show, how about entering an exhibit? Get into the mood, I am sure you will enjoy it and find it fascinating! Your support is urgently needed if we are to continue participating at this show.

Letters to the Editor

November 7, 1990

Editor,

The letter by Bernie Herrmann, Jr. in the November, 1990 issue was prophetic. I had written an article for LTS which appeared in the August 1990 issue in which I said I'd gladly pay \$50 for an 1885 love token nickel in nice condition. Now lucky Mr. Herrmann found one in XF+ condition which he gladly paid \$75 and was offered \$200 and \$250 by two different dealers. The suggested price of \$50 I mentioned was for a simple monogram on a coin in Fine to VF condition. Mr. Herrmann lucked out and found a scenic (a bird) in higher grade which he quickly learned was worth more than \$200. This illustrates my point very clearly -- DATES do matter in love tokens. In fact, I can put my "buying" list in LTS offering to buy many key dated coins for huge premiums over common dated love tokens of the same series. But I still prefer to search through dealers' stock boxes and stock pages for "finds". Good luck Mr. Herrmann in your finding other prize love tokens. Perhaps I can see them sometime at a regional exhibit.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sol Taylor, P.O. Box 5465
N. Hollywood, CA 91616-5465



November 8, 1990

Editor,

I collect love tokens and have some I treasure greatly. I have a husband that has collected for all our married life. He of course collects American and I got really sick of seeing a whole Indian set all looking the same. So I started with Canadian and foreign at least something else besides a boring all the same except for date sets. Then I discovered Love Tokens. So now they are my main interest.

Last year a couple weeks before Christmas I went to a mall near home. I shopped 3 stores, arrived home and checked change. There I found a Twenty cent piece made into a love token. It has a nicely engraved flower, etc. on it. I'm sure some cashier was happy to pawn a foreign coin off on a customer. Bet to this day she doesn't realize she gave back in change something rare and dear to me. Now after all this I'll tell you why I really wrote. I know a young man about to do a 2 year tour of duty overseas who wants a token with Laura on it. He would settle for L.S. but really wants the name Laura. I promised to write and try to locate him one and so here is his request. If you will have anyone having such a coin (token) to write me price etc. so I may help a young man's stay overseas a little happier. Thank you in advance.

Viola E. Aldrich, 37 Laurence Ave., Barre, VT 05641

P.S. - Forgot to add I have a pair of blue enameled earrings on British coins. Screw type backs as I never had my ears pierced.

November 28, 1990

Dear Editor,

In this never ending search for love tokens, you think you would never find two identical love tokens alike. This is not true. In my wildest dreams I never thought something like this could happen. Then to have it happen twice is totally amazing. In the past 30 years of collecting, and research, I have discovered two sets of alike love tokens. The coins were purchased at different times, and one was a birthday gift.

In the Liberty Seated Dimes I purchased, one had the initial "Z" on it. Then about 3 years later I received a coin for a birthday gift, that also had the initial "Z" on it. The only thing was, that this one had the "Z" enameled in blue. I then borrowed a high powered medical microscope from Dr. Todd Wahrenberger who is my stepson. After studying them over and over under the microscope, to my surprise, I discovered they were indeed engraved by the same person, and identical. This was unbelievable, because I now had a matched pair! Except for the one that was enameled in blue.

Then I discovered another strange incident with Canadian love tokens. Two coins that were purchased six years apart, they both had the same identical style, and artwork on them. The artwork was very, very fine and outstanding, also very unique, and intricate. This happened to be the best artwork I have ever seen on a love token in my life. The artwork was identical. One love token was a Canadian half dollar, extremely fine, with the initials "M.J.S." on it. The other love token was a Canadian quarter dollar, also extremely fine, with the name "WILL" on it. These two Canadian love tokens were also studied under a high-powered microscope. They were both engraved by the same person, and the same fine artwork, which was identical. A matched pair in artwork!

This shoots down the theory that collectors and dealers tell you - there are no two alike love tokens. Just keep looking and study your love tokens. Hopefully someday you too will come up with a find like I did!

Sincerely,

Bernie Herrmann, Jr.



Love Token Society Love Letter

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
321 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506